

Title:	Brixham Hospital Site Re- Development		
Report to:	Health Scrutiny Board, Torbay Council		
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This paper sets out to update the Health Scrutiny Board on progress made on the Brixham Hospital site re-development.

Torbay Care Trust as part of its Estates Strategy has a programme of estate modernisation, refurbishment and development. The existing Hospital buildings at Brixham are greatly valued and well used by the local community. However they are aging and expensive to maintain and no longer suitable for the delivery of modern health. Public expectations rightly expect health buildings to be well designed, fit for purpose and flexible to adapt to future challenges as health needs of the population change.

The Trust acknowledged in its Estates Strategy that as the NHS owns the land on which Brixham Hospital stands and its location is popular and convenient with the local population, it is a valuable community asset. On that basis the site in Greenswood Road is well suited as the long-term location for the Community Hospital in Brixham. Our stated aspiration is to redevelop the whole site to provide a new facility for the community.

In 2006 the Briseham day care unit on the Brixham Hospital site was vacated by Devon Partnership Mental HealthTrust and returned to Torbay Care Trust for use. The Briseham building was built in the mid 1980's and was thus in a relatively good condition in terms of construction and functional suitability contrasted with the other accommodation on site. After a review and following close work with the Brixham Hospital League of Friends a plan was put in place to refurbish Briseham to become the new wards accommodation for Brixham. Patients would be transfer for the beds in the old hospital building into Briseham and the space vacated would in turn be refurbished. In the old building patients

shared two large 10 bedded wards with little privacy or dignity. The new accommodation was planned to contain 4 single rooms and 4 single sex 4 bedded days, maintaining the 20 bedded capacity overall.

In January 2009 the Trust opened the new refurbished ward accommodation on the Brixham Hospital site. This £1.3 Million scheme modernised facilities for patients to provide a much improved environment in which to provide care. League Friends were closely involved in the projects planning and execution and also made a generous financial contribution. Feedback from patients, carers, local GP's and staff has been extremely positive. The scheme was planned by a project group that included the League of Friends, a local GP, and nursing and estates staff.

The wards conversion project was viewed by the trust as the first stage of a sequence of investments and plans for the Brixham Hospital site. The clinic building on site has a remaining life of five years therefore viable alternative accommodation needed to be in place. The clinic is a stand alone building of poor construction in need of a significant investment which would prove uneconomic to make. The space currently used by the Physiotherapy service in the old hospital building is cramped and provides poor dignity and privacy and waiting facilities for patients. As a result a plan was put in place to modernise the vacated spaces in the old building to create improved clinical spaces for patients and practitioners.

In August 2009 refurbishment work began in the old building. The accommodation will be available for services on site such as Physiotherapy, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Audiology, Sexual Health Services, and Orthopists. The project is a mixture of building refurbishment, urgent backlog maintenance and improved patient and staff facilities. As part of the scheme improvements are also planned in the Minor Injuries reception area to enhance access for patients and to make the waiting areas more users friendly and welcoming. It is envisaged this work will be completed and ready for occupation in January 2010. Investments will also be made at this time with respect to the telephone system on the site. During the works in the Minor Injuries Unit reception a temporary reception will be set up elsewhere on site.

All of the above estates developments at Brixham Hospital have been progressed through the prism of the longer-term future of the site. Given the age of the new wards structure and the size of the recent capital investments in the building it is envisaged the wards accommodation will remain as currently used as a key component of the longer-term proposed site solution. However the works in the old hospital building has been commissioned only as an interim solution. In terms of the site redevelopment strategy this space is less suitable for flexible modern health care and crucially the long-term life of this building is finite

Longer term Site Re-Development

Public Consultation

The Care Trust held a focus day at the Berryhead Hotel to ask members of the public the type of services they would like to see on the hospital site. The services were:

GP Services
Mental Health for all ages
**Meeting facilities for voluntary groups and
improved information for patients**
NHS Dentistry
Diagnostic (testing and screening) facilities
X-Ray
Sexual Health Services
Services that help you make best use of your medicines
Alternative/complementary medicine
Respite Care
A centre for public health and education

Following on from the focus day a leaflet was circulated to Brixham residents. A copy was inserted in local press and also in the LINKs newsletter. The feedback received was largely positive with most people giving details of positive experiences on the Brixham Hospital site. The list of services put forward was almost the same as that raised at the Berryhead with an emphasis placed on the lack of NHS dentistry in Brixham.

Members of the project team have also attended community partnership meetings and have been along to the Parish Council to ask for and give feedback. We are currently working with the Community Partnership Manager to arrange a structured timetable of feedback.

The information gathered from all public consultations will help to develop a Commissioning strategy for Brixham. The strategy will aim to set out the health and social care needs for Brixham for the next fifteen to twenty years.

Next steps

To have a commissioning strategy developed by November 09. This will help to form the first draft of a design brief. We would like to present these documents to the Health Scrutiny board in January 2010.