

Statement re HNT/Chase

Health hub remains a priority but Chase will stay until it's in place

An update from the CCG on health and care services for Whitehill and Bordon

We know that people are still uncertain about what the future holds for Chase Community Hospital, whether or not a health hub will happen and what this means for health and care services in the area.

We are hoping this update will allay some of those concerns. We have heard from a number of meetings that people generally are still uncertain about what plans there are for health services in the town, and the impact of this on Chase Community Hospital.

The most important message is: we have no plans to close Chase Community Hospital until a health hub is in place

Local people have told us how important the provision of a range of good quality health services is to the town. We are fully aware, too, of the important role Chase Hospital plays in the lives of people locally. The hospital will stay and will continue to be an important element of health and care service provision for the community until a health hub is developed. What's more, if the hub, eventually, doesn't come to fruition, the hospital will remain.

Planning for the hub is complex, so it will take time

With the regeneration of the town and the Healthy New Town status, an opportunity presented itself to look at providing health care in a different way. Working with East Hampshire District Council and our local Chase Hospital stakeholder group, the CCG developed a proposal for a health hub in the new town centre which would include space for expansion. The group developed a business case and applied for NHS capital funding, but this was rejected at the end of last year. But that is a setback, at this stage, rather than the end of the story.

Missing out on national funding was disappointing, but not the end of the story

The intention is still to develop a health hub in the town. The news that we were unsuccessful in our first business case submission was disappointing but we knew that securing funding would be a challenge and we are committed to continuing to work with our partners to explore all potential funding routes. We will continue to further develop our business case for the scheme whilst we explore other sources of capital investment which may be available. The outline business case will then be considered by our Governing Body later on this year. The CCG is working with partners on how to make this happen with the intention that the hub will offer primary, community and holistic services.

The way some services are being provided has changed but we are trying to ensure you still have access to a wide range of services in Whitehill and Bordon

You will probably have heard that Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust gave notice on providing its services at Chase Hospital, as the Trust found it increasingly difficult to run

satellite clinics there and, instead, has consolidated services at Basingstoke or Alton hospitals.

Most of the appointments run by Hampshire Hospitals will now take place at Alton Community Hospital. The Trust's outpatient services moved in March 2019, with x-ray services due to follow at the end of June 2019. Community midwifery will remain at Chase Hospital and ophthalmology and general paediatrics services will be delivered at local GP surgeries, provided by Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Chase Hospital remains open and other services there, and in the town, will continue

In summary:

- Royal Surrey is now providing community midwifery at Chase Hospital and GP surgeries. Ophthalmology and general paediatrics will be provided at local GP practices. Patients can also choose to be seen by Royal Surrey in Haslemere for ENT (ear, nose and throat), audiology and ophthalmology.
- Physiotherapy, baby and children's clinics, podiatry, speech and language therapy, sexual health, adult and older people's mental health, counselling and screening (eg aortic aneurism and breast screening) services remain at the Chase Hospital.
- In addition a new phlebotomy service has been commissioned and will be offered in the GP surgeries. It has not been lost to the town.

We want to continue the dialogue about Chase and the health hub

Our commitment to delivering effective and appropriate health services in Whitehill and Bordon continues and we will continue to engage with residents and stakeholders about the future of the health hub and, subsequently, the hospital. In the interim we want to ensure Chase hospital remains well used and attractive and NHS Property Services is supporting that work by looking to attract new tenants which could include community groups or local businesses that complement services already at the hospital site. It has also been planning to undertake some 'sprucing up' work on the site with the entrances due to be repainted, gutters being cleared and the front paving slabs due to be replaced with a level service. We recognise the importance of Chase to the local community, and how important it is for local services to thrive there and in the town, while we continue to plan for the new hub building.