



The latest from **A picture of health**

The A picture of health (APOH) programme aims to significantly improve the delivery of health services for, and the health and well being of, more than a million people in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham.

APOH began in 2005 when the NHS in outer south east London identified the need to reorganise how local health services were provided. Over the next couple of year, an extensive amount of analytical work was undertaken in the areas of clinical redesign, finance, capacity, human resources, estates, and impact assessment, to identify exactly how services could be changed for the better. Then, in 2008, APOH ran a public consultation to gather feedback from local people about the proposed changes.

On 8 May 2009, following a review of the programme by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), the Secretary of State for health (SofS) published his decision on the future of APOH, giving the green light for the changes to go ahead.

The changes to be implemented under APOH will ensure the local NHS can provide better, safer and affordable healthcare services in local community settings, and from the four largest hospitals in our area – the Princess Royal University Hospital in Farnborough (PRUH), Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich (QEH), University Hospital Lewisham (UHL), and Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup (QMS).

The four acute sites will each have:

- urgent care centres, that will treat many of the current A&E patients;
- outpatients services;
- assessment services for children and older people; and
- day-case surgery (where the patient does not stay overnight).

The differences between acute services under APOH will be:

- QMS will specialise in planned surgery and become a base for many community healthcare services. It will have a 24-hour urgent care centre, midwife-led birthing unit (MLBU) and paediatric ambulatory care service, but will not have an A&E or children's inpatients;
- PRUH, QEH and UHL will become specialist emergency centres with 24-hour A&E, maternity units and children's inpatients; and
- UHL will also provide some planned surgery.



The acute changes will be supported by more services being provided in the community, closer to patients' homes. These services will include, but not be limited to:

- ante- and post-natal care
- home births
- paediatric ambulatory care ('walk-in' assessment and treatment services for children)
- community matrons
- medical assessment services
- intermediate care (for short-term stays and treatment out of hospital)
- rehabilitation (for patients post-hospitalisation)
- day care facilities (for treatment such as intravenous chemotherapy)
- screening (for cancers and other illnesses)
- health support services (stop smoking, obesity programme, alcohol interventions etc)
- support for, and management of, long-term conditions (eg diabetes, cardiac, stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- ophthalmology (eye care)
- oral surgery

Now the challenge is to drive forward the implementation across multiple care pathways and in four boroughs, and ensure that all of the benefits promised by the programme are delivered.

Latest update – July 2009

- Clinical redesign workstreams are finalising new service models and redesigning patient pathways, through engagement with clinical colleagues and patients
- Clinical engagement included a recent series of workshops where service models were presented to doctors, nurses and midwives in the areas of acute and general medicine, surgery, children and young people, women's services, for feedback
- A series of public and patient engagement events, from 15 July, to gather feedback from patients about any issues they foresee when APOH implements the changes to services, and how they think these issues could be resolved
- Business planning work continues alongside the clinical redesign work, with financial and capacity analysis currently being refreshed. The service models proposed by the clinicians are also being assessed against financial and capacity sustainability.
- Estates development planners have been appointed and planning work is underway across all acute sites

For more information about APOH
Email apoh@lewishampct.nhs.uk

Visit www.apictureofhealth.nhs.uk
Freephone (please leave a message) 0800 321 3579