

Appendix C

Joint statement with ASPH, SCC and NHS England South (22 August 2017)

Surrey County Council and NHS England South have commissioned a new integrated Sexual Health/HIV community service for Surrey with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL). This means most of the services currently provided at the Blanche Heriot Unit at St Peter's Hospital (sexual health and HIV services) will be moving from the hospital to alternative community settings. Commissioners are working closely with Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals to ensure there is a safe transfer of patients and staff to the new service.

The constrained economic climate and the changing nature in which many people are seeking to access services of this nature have encouraged us to explore new approaches and opportunities to deliver these services at scale right across Surrey in order to be sustainable into the future.

Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals are working closely with CNWL, the new provider, to ensure safe transition for patients, and to that end will provide some clinical space for temporary HIV clinics at St Peter's Hospital to make sure that more complex patients' needs can be planned for with individual patients over the next few months.

Sexual health, reproductive health and HIV services make an important contribution to the health of individuals and communities. Modern service delivery needs to be closer to the adults and young people it serves and nationally services are moving away from acute hospital sites to local community settings, as well as using online and telephone access to services. These kinds of access routes are known to be well utilised providing they are supported by a depth and range of clinical expertise and interventions such as those provided by CNWL in other locations.

The Blanche Heriot Unit (BHU) has provided an excellent traditional model of care for sexual health and HIV and we know that staff will continue to use their expertise in the innovative model of care provided by CNWL that enables people to manage their own health needs with support when required.

During the mobilisation process it has become clear that there are a number of other services delivered by BHU, specifically pelvic pain and genital dermatology which will continue to be provided by the hospital Trust. Ashford and St Peter's recognises its duty in continuing to provide the best care for patients needing these services and is working with both Surrey Council and its principle commissioners, North West Surrey CCG, to ensure these services continue to be provided in line with national clinical guidance and best practice.

The BHU has also been providing some more routine services such as cervical smear tests, which is inappropriate on an acute hospital site unless an onward referral to an appropriate specialist has been made by a primary care clinician. In future we will be supporting patients to have these tests at their own GP practice which is the appropriate setting and ensuring that clear referral protocols are in place.

Both commissioners and the hospital Trust are keen to continue to work with service users at BHU to make sure that future services are accessible, high quality and where appropriate enable patients to manage their health as independently as possible.