

Frequently Asked Questions

Proposal for An Acute Treatment Centre in Cranleigh

What is the rationale for an “An Acute Treatment Centre in Cranleigh?”

The shape and the geography of the Cranleigh area, together with relative paucity of public transport (infrequent buses and no railway) and some distance from “A” roads that can only be reached by secondary roads make it difficult to access urgent care in a reasonable time. Thirty minutes is the accepted standard. All transport times from Cranleigh to RSCH or other local possibilities for Urgent Care (e.g. Haslemere) are in excess of this whether considering car or public transport (see Tables 1-5 in Report).

Why is An Acute Treatment Centre being proposed rather than an Urgent Treatment Centre?

One of NHS England’s 2020 objectives is to get CCGs to establish an Urgent Treatment centre (UTC) in each CCG. For areas where such a centre is not the complete solution then an “Alternative Clinical Service” (ACS) will be considered either in addition to or instead of a UTC. NHS England has developed criteria for an Urgent Treatment centre; the Cranleigh area does not satisfy the likely consultation numbers for a UTC. However, the area does meet criteria for consideration for an ACS primarily because of geography, location, increase in population and health inequalities (see pages 11 and 12 of Report)

Why is this being communicated?

The Group in Cranleigh think it is important to engage with practices in the East Waverley PCN area to be transparent, to identify common needs and potential benefits as well as differences in terms of Urgent Care requirements. The Cranleigh Medical Practice support this proposal. The CCG want to see equity of provision across the area.

Your understanding about the rationale for this proposal is important especially the relative inequity that people in the Cranleigh area experience compared with the rest of East Waverley PCN to access acute treatment. The proposal may not directly affect all or many of your patients. For those practices / people who are closer to “A” roads and have shorter transport times for Urgent Care e.g. to RSCH, the Group in Cranleigh ask for support for a facility to enable people of the Cranleigh area to have equity of access to acute treatment.

Availability of the proposed facility in Cranleigh will decrease use of ambulance services for non-emergency care to RSCH which is where people from Cranleigh currently usually go for this service. This will be of benefit to the whole of the East Waverley PCN area.

Where will the new service be?

There is space in Cranleigh Village Hospital (CVH) which also has a new X-Ray department, a midwifery hub, an extensive OPD, a phlebotomy service and a physiotherapy department. CVH is on the High Street in the centre of Cranleigh, has a bus stop outside and is next to a large public car park.

How was the catchment area for the proposal decided?

Two factors contributed to the definition of the catchment area:

1. People having an unacceptable travel time to access Urgent Care
2. Feedback from Care / Nursing / Residential Homes / Retirement Village / Specialist Housing and Schools in the area about the issues they face in accessing Urgent Care.

What is the process for evaluating this proposal?

The proposal will be considered by the Clinical Working Group (a sub-group of the ICP) together with the outcome of Better Care Consultation and other proposals that have been shortlisted for adoption to meet NHS England's objectives for each CCG (NHS LT Plan, FYFV).

What Criteria will be used to assess the proposals?

The criteria are currently being developed by the Clinical Working Group subgroup of the ICP.

What is the timeframe for a decision to be made?

The proposal will be discussed by the ICP in early July and a recommendation is expected soon thereafter with ratification by NHS England in the autumn.

How is this project to be funded?

Money has been set aside by the CCG to fund Urgent Treatment Centres and/ or Alternative Community Services at no disadvantage to GP practices or their patients.

Will the funding for this project have an impact on funding for practices in East Waverley PCN?

No, the funding for the UTC and / or alternative services is independent of funds for practices.