Important information for all staff

Building for Better Care

The purpose of this Stop Press is to update you on the progress of the Building for Better Care Programme.

Building for Better Care (BfBC) is the proposed major investment programme to provide new modern fit-for-purpose facilities at the ‘front doors’ of University Hospital Ayr and University Hospital Crosshouse. This will support the delivery of a new model of care which will focus on a ‘decision to admit’ at the earliest point of a patient coming into hospital through rapid assessment by senior clinical staff, rather than ‘admit to decide’. The ‘front door’ is the term used to describe the point of entry for patients coming to hospital for anything other than a scheduled appointment.

This development aims to provide safe, effective and person centred urgent and emergency care.

What is included in Building for Better Care?

The Building for Better Care Programme includes the following new facilities:

• Development of Combined Assessment Units (CAUs) at University Hospitals Ayr and Crosshouse;

• Redevelopment of University Hospital Ayr’s Accident and Emergency department (A&E);

• Expansion of the Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at University Hospital Crosshouse to support the integration of the Intensive Care Unit with Medical and Surgical High Dependency; and

• Expansion of the existing Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at University Hospital Ayr.

The Combined Assessment Unit (CAU) will offer a new way of working for our staff. Patients who come into hospital either by GP referral or who present themselves currently come through the Emergency Department (ED). This puts pressure on the EDs and we recognise that this is adding to wait times. In the future patients who are referred for assessment/admission by their General Practitioner will go straight to the CAU, along with patients who have self presented at ED and through assessment in ED have been confirmed as requiring admission. This will include patients with both medical and surgical conditions. Patients who need to be admitted to Intensive Care, High Care or CCU facilities will continue to go directly to those areas. The focus of the CAU will be to provide rapid investigation, senior decision making and an expansion in the management of appropriate patients through Ambulatory Care Pathways. The CAU will be a single, multi-disciplinary and multi-specialty team working together to optimise patient care. The CAU environment itself will incorporate an Ambulatory Care area with trolley bays and consultation/treatment rooms, a Rapid Assessment area and a suite of single patient rooms. The aim will be to assess and treat the patient in the appropriate environment and then either discharge the patient or admit them to a specialty ward if further care and treatment is needed.

3 July 2013
What’s happened so far?
An Outline Business Case (OBC) submitted to the Scottish Government in 2012 for Phase 1 of the Programme (CAU at Crosshouse and A&E at Ayr) was given the go-ahead for Full Business Case. The Scottish Government then asked for an Outline Business Case to provide a new CAU at University Hospital Ayr (Phase 2) to be brought forward, and this was approved by Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board on Monday 24 June 2013. Our updated OBC has now been sent to the Scottish Government which will indicate whether or not we have permission to proceed to develop a Full Business Case (FBC) for the first two phases of the BfBC project. The FBC will incorporate the new A&E department at University Hospital Ayr and the new CAUs for both University Hospital Ayr and University Hospital Crosshouse.

What happens next?
Once we receive approval of the OBC the FBC will go to Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board for approval before being submitted to the Scottish Government. We hope to receive final approval in February 2014 when we will begin construction. We expect to compete the building work in 2017. We will be holding staff seminars in September and will publicise dates closer to the time.

Tell us what you think... If you would like to comment on any issues raised by this Stop Press, please email comms@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk or write to the Communications Department, 28 Lister Street. If you provide your contact details, we will acknowledge your comments and pass them to the appropriate departments for a response.

Name and department (optional)

Comments

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