

South Bristol Community Hospital Programme Update

On 8 July 2009, the Bristol Evening Post published a headline article about South Bristol Community Hospital.

Bristol Community Health and NHS Bristol wanted to take the opportunity to update all our stakeholders, local community groups and members of the public direct on the up-to-date position with respect to the timetable for the hospital. We would normally do this through the regular South Bristol Community Hospital public newsletter, but in light of the article, we are issuing this update in advance, which we hope you will find useful.

Overview

The year 2009 started with business case approval by the NHS Bristol board and NHS South West!

Once the Department of Health have completed their review, the commercial negotiations can be finalised and construction can begin.

Build options and timescales

The NHS Bristol development partner - Bristol Infracare LIFT - has been reviewing build options for the hospital.

The main difference from the previous plans is the build time, which is likely to extend to 24 months from the original 12 months.

We will continue to review the position to ensure that we secure the quickest delivery and the best value.

Why is it taking so long?

The loss of the German contractor has meant that some work had to be repeated.

The global economic position has meant that funding is harder to come by and more expensive, but some costs are moving in our favour.

We need to make sure that we secure the best deal in these circumstances

Looking ahead

Subject to approval from the Department of Health, the earliest time contracts could be signed is autumn 2009.

Assuming a maximum build time of 24 months this would result in an opening date towards the end of 2011.

These final stages are always the toughest for any big project and until contracts are signed there is always the potential for last minute delays.

For this reason we can't guarantee the opening date yet but we are working hard to avoid further delay and we will keep people in touch with how we are doing.

In the meantime, the work on the new roads and services at Hengrove is nearly complete and will be ready for us to begin building the hospital later this year (see picture below).

Looking from the site of the new South Bristol hospital plot towards the main entrance of the Hengrove park development, the new college building is on the left.



Summary

SBCH remains central to our plans for the future design of local health services in Bristol.

It is particularly important in south Bristol where it will be part of the wider regeneration work along with the new college and the new leisure centre.

We are still planning for the same hospital with the same range of services.

The extra time we have will help us to prepare the new ways of working that we want to implement in the hospital when it opens.

Contact details

For further information about South Bristol Community Hospital, please contact Helen Barrett, Project Assistant (Helen.barrett3@bristolpct.nhs.uk, Tel: 0117 900 2543).

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