

News Release

23 July 2019

Triple boost for £4.8m Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Centre

- **South Hams District Council approves business case**
- **GP practice agrees to relocate to new facility**
- **NHS confirms financial model and £multi-million build figures**

Ambitious plans to build a new health and wellbeing centre in Dartmouth received a **TRIPLE** boost this week.

The local NHS, South Hams District Council (SHDC), Dartmouth Medical Practice and other partners are working together to build a state-of-the-art new home for GP and NHS services in the town.

The new building will be light, airy and built to modern health and energy standards. The aim of the new centre is to bring many local health services under one roof, for the benefit of people in Dartmouth. It will provide a wide range of services formerly provided at Dartmouth Hospital and currently offered by TSDFT at Dartmouth Clinic, which was re-purposed as an interim health and wellbeing centre in 2017. It would also house Dartmouth Medical Practice, Dartmouth Caring, and retail outlets such as a pharmacy.

The project has taken major steps forward in recent days.

On 18 July 2019, South Hams District Council's Executive approved the business case for the scheme, which sets out the way it will be funded and built and how the council will lease the building to the head tenant, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT).

The new centre is set to be built on land currently used as an overflow for the park and ride at the top of town.

The council previously agreed the principle of developing a Health and Wellbeing Centre for Dartmouth in December 2018 and the scheme is subject to design, planning permission and lease agreements.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, SHDC's Deputy Leader said: "I am delighted that the council is working with the NHS to build a modern, fit-for-purpose health and wellbeing centre for local people. This investment is good for the council and good for the population of Dartmouth and the surrounding villages."

And this week, GPs from Dartmouth Medical Practice formally announced they will relocate from their Victoria Road surgery to the new site after terms were agreed

Dartmouth Medical Practice
NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS South Devon and Torbay NHS Foundation Trust

with NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which is the local headquarters for the NHS, responsible for planning and paying for local health services.

The practice will lease its part of the building from the head tenant, TSDFT.

Dr Andrew Eynon-Lewis, senior partner at Dartmouth Medical Practice said: “Moving to the new health and wellbeing centre will bring huge benefits for our patients and our hard-working practice team.

“Patients can look forward to receiving healthcare in a modern, accessible and fit-for-purpose building, while the new facility also puts GP services on a more sustainable footing by providing an attractive place to work for GPs and allowing us expand our training programme.”

The move is subject to agreeing the detailed terms of the practice’s occupancy.

This week, TSDFT also announced it had approved the financial model for the scheme and confirmed details about the sums being invested by the NHS.

The cost of building the centre will be £4.1 million, about £1 million of which will come from the sale of the former Dartmouth Community Hospital, which closed in 2017 when services were relocated or changed further to a full public consultation. The overall project cost is £4.8 million.

Services to be provided by the trust in the new building include:

- Ante-Natal Clinics
- Audiology
- Bladder and Bowel Clinic
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Counselling
- Community Therapy Team
- Dartmouth Caring – sounsellors
- Talkworks (formerly the Depression and Anxiety Service)
- Devon Carers
- Diabetic Eye Screening
- District Nursing Team
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- Heart Failure Clinic
- Lower Limb Therapy Clinic
- Minor Ops
- Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy
- Osteopath
- Paediatric Clinic
- Podiatry

Services, such as intermediate care, community therapy, community nurses, social services, are provided in the community.

TSDFT chief executive Liz Davenport added: “We’re really pleased this exciting project is gathering momentum and has passed some major milestones in recent days. We’re investing in bringing a first-class facility to people in Dartmouth and we’re looking forward to continuing to work with our local partners on developing the plans.”

Simon Tapley, interim accountable officer for Devon CCG, said: “We know from experience that bringing different health services together under one roof has huge benefits for patients and the NHS. I’d like to thank CCG colleagues, TSDFT, Dartmouth Medical Practice and the council for pulling together to bring a superb new building closer to fruition.”

Current plans are for the new centre to be built on about half of the existing overflow car park, which is currently a field, with the rest of the land formally laid out to provide 90 car parking spaces.

Although that would mean about 35 fewer spaces than current capacity, the paper before the council’s executive stated that weekend capacity would be not be unduly affected as the health and wellbeing centre would not have high demand during those periods and the car park would therefore be available. Executive members also agreed that officers would come up with proposals to further mitigate the ‘minimal impact’ the scheme on overflow parking capacity. Coach parking and main park and ride parking capacity are unaffected.

The next step is for the council to enter into an agreement with TSDFT and jointly complete the design phase of the project, which would be followed by a planning application.

Project timescales will be confirmed soon, but it is hoped an application for planning permission could be submitted early in 2020 and should it be approved, the project could be complete in 2021.

ENDS

Notes to editors

About NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

For more information, call 01392 674801 or email alex.cameron2@nhs.net or d-ccg.corporateservices@nhs.net

Devon CCG was formed on 1 April 2019 from the merger of South Devon and Torbay CCG and Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG. Devon CCG, acts as the headquarters for the NHS in the county and has a budget of more than £1.8 billion.

**Dartmouth Medical Practice
NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS South Devon and Torbay NHS Foundation Trust**

It brings together experienced healthcare professionals to decide what services are needed in the local area and ensure that they are provided to the 1.2 million patients across the county. The process of planning, buying and monitoring healthcare is known as commissioning.

Devon CCG commissions other organisations – including NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts, independent organisations, social enterprises and charities – to provide services such as:

- Urgent and emergency care, such as NHS 111, A&E and ambulance services
- Planned (elective) hospital care, such as operations and treatments
- Mental health services
- Community health services, including community nursing and physiotherapy
- Rehabilitation for people recovering from operations and certain conditions
- Maternity and new-born services (excluding neonatal intensive care)
- Health services for children and young people
- Infertility services
- Continuing health care for people with on-going health needs

From 1 April 2019, Devon CCG took on responsibility for commissioning primary care (mainly GP) services in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, a role which formerly belonged to NHS England.

For further information on NHS Devon CCG, visit www.DevonCCG.nhs.uk

About Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

We are an integrated care organisation providing acute and community health services and adult social care across Torbay and South Devon.

We run Torbay Hospital and community hospitals for Torbay and South Devon, and provide health and social care at home and within health and wellbeing centres.

We employ approximately 6,000 members of staff, have 420,000 outpatient clinic attendances, over 305,000 community care contacts with patients in their homes and communities, carry out around 21,000 procedures in our theatres and see over 73,000 in our A&E department and 40,000 in our minor injury units every year.

We are proud to be part of a healthcare community that works in partnership to provide the best possible health and care for its population. Our partners include other NHS organisations across Devon, GPs, Torbay Council, Devon County Council, Rowcroft Hospice and our voluntary sector partners. We are also a partner in the Devon NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, which is looking at long-term plans for the NHS in Devon and aims to secure the 'best care' for our communities within the collective funding available to us all.

See our website www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk, follow us on Twitter [@TorbaySDevonNHS](https://twitter.com/TorbaySDevonNHS) or visit our Facebook page on: www.facebook.com/TorbayandsouthdevonFT

About Dartmouth Medical Practice

For details on the practice, click on www.dartmedical.co.uk

About South Hams District Council

For details, click on www.southhams.gov.uk Please be aware that telephone calls to and from the Council may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes.

Dartmouth Medical Practice
NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS South Devon and Torbay NHS Foundation Trust