

Views sought on future provision of Ophthalmology services

25 January 2019

Patients and staff are being asked for their views on how Ophthalmology services, provided by The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), should be delivered in the future.

Ophthalmology services are currently provided at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Telford, and Euston House (ICAT) in Telford; as outlined below:

Site	Outpatients	Surgery
RSH	Adult & Paediatric All sub-specialisms and Urgent Eye Clinic	Adult General Anaesthetic and Local Anaesthetic sub-specialisms, complex and "simple" Emergency Operating
PRH	Adult & Paediatric All sub-specialisms Excluding the following: Urgent Eye Clinic Injections for Medical Retina related conditions Cornea Cataract assessment	Paediatric General Anaesthetic and Local Anaesthetic Adult Oculoplasty surgery.
ICAT	Adult The following services only: Cataract assessments, non-specialised ophthalmology and the ability to deliver lasers	Adult The following services only: Local Anaesthetic "simple" Cataract and Injections

To improve patient care and waiting times; as well as help recruit and retain staff, SaTH is proposing to relocate the eye services currently provided by ICAT, back to the eye departments at RSH (Cophthorne Building) and PRH.

The Trust is now seeking the views of service users, staff and other interested parties on two options:

- Option 1 - No change
- Option 2 - To relocate adult outpatient services from ICAT back into the respective main hospital sites; and relocate cataract surgery from ICAT to the Cophthorne building at RSH

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Tony Fox, Deputy Medical Director at SaTH, said: “The demand for eye services provided by SaTH remains incredibly high. By relocating services back to RSH and PRH, it would not only help us to improve waiting times for our patients, it would also help us to recruit and retain the staff to provide those services.

“Staff would spend less time travelling resulting in more clinical activity. Having more staff at reduced sites would potentially mean appointments would not have to be cancelled due to sickness; and having staff working alongside each other – rather than being spread across sites – would enable many patients to have their eye needs met in one appointment rather than multiple appointments and trips.

“We would like to encourage anyone with an interest in hospital eye services to complete the questionnaire. It is important for them to have their say as this will help us to shape how services will be provided for them in the future.”

Interested parties have until 18 February 2019 to respond to the questionnaire which can be accessed here: <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/ophthalmology/> or via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/1810EyeCare>

The results of the questionnaire will be presented to SaTH's Trust Board alongside associated recommendations at a meeting, which will be open to the public, in April.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

- The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is the main provider of acute hospital care for almost 500,000 people from Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales. Patients come to us from Telford, Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Whitchurch, Newtown and Welshpool in Powys.

- The Trust continues to work with its partners in health and social care in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales to develop patient-focused services that meet the needs of our communities.

- If you have any feedback about local healthcare, independent support and signposting is available from Healthwatch Shropshire, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin and Powys Community Health Council (CHC):
 - Healthwatch Shropshire: 01743 237884 or email the team via enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk
 - Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin: 01952 739540 or email info@healthwatchtelfordandwrekin.co.uk
 - Powys CHC: 01686 627632 or email enquiries.powyschc@waleschc.org.uk

For more information contact Claire Dunn, Communications Specialist at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, on 01743 492285.