Midland Metropolitan Hospital gets government green light

On Monday 11th July 2014, Rowley Regis Hospital received an important visitor who made a very important announcement. Chancellor George Osborne was at the site to confirm Government support for the Midland Metropolitan Hospital, which is set to be a brand new acute centre for adults and children in Smethwick. When built, Midland Met (as it’s more commonly known), will substantially replace emergency services currently provided at both City and Sandwell Hospitals.

The commitment made by the Chancellor includes £100 million of state funding and approval for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH) to seek a private sector (PF2) partner. Once additional funding from the private sector has been secured by the autumn of 2015, building works will commence at the Grove Lane site in spring 2016. Such a timeframe would see Midland Met open its doors to patients in 2018/19.

The team at SWBH sees the approval as a decisive moment which will not only transform hospital care, but also reshape integrated care locally. The Trust’s commitment, under the Right Care, Right Here partnership, is to develop more community-based services at its sites in Rowley Regis, at Leasowes and on Dudley Road, and to refurbish Sandwell Hospital to ensure high quality outpatient and intermediate care in West Bromwich.

Dr Nick Harding, local GP and Chair of Sandwell & West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, welcomed the announcement, saying “This is great news for local people and is at the centre of our plan to transform hospital, primary care and community services to bring excellent care much closer to where people live.”

Savio Gaspar, the Trust’s Director of Primary Care and local GP, said: “A new hospital in Smethwick must be the signal for us to work better across general practice, community, and hospital services. This is our chance to become renowned for integrating care. We need to work together, join up our IT, talk with each other and innovate in how we work. This is a very exciting chance to make a difference.”
SWBH v SWBCCG: Cricket Match Report

The first CCG vs. Trust cricket match was held on Sunday 3 August at Dartmouth Cricket Club in West Bromwich. It was a great day with good weather but too much wind for the slower bowlers. Entertainment such as face painting and a bouncy castle for the children, and a lavish buffet was laid for the spectators and players.

The toss was won by the Trust and the Captain, Atul Khanna elected to bat. Dr Sam Mukherjee, Captain and Chair of the CCG fielded, and he opened the bowling with Naeem Khan. Santha Kannan and Toby Lewis opened the batting for the Trust, losing early wickets but being rescued by respiratory physician, Arvind Rajasekaran, who scored 41. Farooq Wardroo and podiatrist Tausif Mohammed as middle order batsman contributed significantly and a score of 213 was achieved, with Andy Williams off the field with severely injured leg whilst fielding. Batting for the CCG was led by Naeem Khan who opened with Sah Raja. He scored a useful 16 runs. Nonetheless, the CCG total score was in the end 96 all out.

A special mention needs to be made to the youngest member of the Trust team, Ollie Tipton, who demonstrated significant athleticism, matched only by Trust’s non-executive director Mike Hoare. All in all the biggest run scorer on both sides were wides (did we mention the wind?) and no balls, and the CCG sadly ended the game with only 8 fit players! The Trust was declared the winner for 2014, and the Midland Met Shield was presented to Atul by Andy Williams. It is anticipated that this will be a yearly event and we hope more people will come and enjoy what was an excellent day.

Breast Family History service responds to NICE guidance on chemoprevention

In June 2013 NICE issued guidance on the use of Tamoxifen as a means of risk reduction in women with a high or moderate risk of developing breast cancer including those carriers of BRCA1 and 2 gene mutations.

The guidelines recommend:

- Offer Tamoxifen 20mg per day for 5yrs to pre and post-menopausal women who are BRCA1 or 2 positive or at high risk but not tested as long as there is no history or increased risk of developing thromboembolic disease or endometrial cancer.

- Consider Tamoxifen for 5yrs to pre and post-menopausal women who are moderate risk as long as there is no history or increased risk of developing thromboembolic disease or endometrial cancer.

- It is recommended this should not be prescribed any longer than 5yrs.

Spotlight on RAPID ACCESS: NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR 2WW REFERRALS

Our service is now changing! The Rapid Access department at SWBH NHS Trust is moving forward to enable quicker and easier transfer of referrals.

The Rapid Access Centre now has a mailbox set up to receive all your referrals via email, this will enable quicker and smoother processing of all 2WW referrals, it is important you attach the referral at the time of sending your initial email.

Please note this mailbox will NOT be utilised for general queries or medical advice and guidance, it is to receive referrals only. You will automatically receive an out of office reply as receipt of your email referral which would improve communication with audit trail and provide assurance that referrals are received.

Our email address is SWBHRAPIDACCESSCENTRE@NHS.NET

This mailbox goes LIVE as 1st August 2014.

Please check your homepage within 48 hours for an appointment. If you see that an appointment has not been made please do not hesitate to contact us on 0121 507 2658 so we can work together to reduce anxiety for patients.

ICARES featured as case study in new NHS IQ guidelines

NHS IQ have published new guidelines on ‘Improving adult rehabilitation services in England’. The ICARES service has been included as a case study to illustrate the development of a single integrated community rehabilitation service. The key elements of the ICARES model include:

- Single point of access for all adult (aged 16+ years) rehabilitation referrals (including self-referral), between 8am and 8pm which are then triaged and streamed into red, orange and green for response.

- Red stream referrals are seen within three hours for immediate intervention, orange within 72 hours and green within 15 days.

- Response is provided by integrated locality teams with a focus on self-management where possible.

As well as the above service for referrals, ICARES is also the gateway to intermediate care in the locality. The team oversee discharge from hospital to one of the 150 intermediate beds in the locality and then provide the therapy and care management in the intermediate care bed bases, as well as on discharge into the community.