Kirkham and Wesham relocation proposal

Public feedback meetings

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<tr>
<th>Christ Church, Wesham</th>
<th>St Michael’s Church, Kirkham</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>4 October 2017</td>
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<td>Noon to 1.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm</td>
<td>1pm to 2.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm</td>
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Questions and answers

Will there be hearing aid facilities?

We would hope to have a replacement battery service at the new health centre, but it wouldn’t be appropriate for testing; audiology services would be unlikely.

Would the current building on Derby Road be entirely demolished? And will houses also be built at the site?

Yes, over time, the entire building is likely to be demolished. In terms of housing, we can’t say for definite what the plans would be. The owner of the building is NHS Property Services and the site has been marked as suitable for disposal and selling. If these plans don’t go ahead, the building/land will still be sold on, and this could mean housing.

What will happen to the existing Kirkham Health Centre site?

We will have an exit strategy and one possible option is that CCG staff at the current Wesham site could operate from there. The building is owned by NHS Property Services, so if we were to operate from that building it would be as a tenant.

I have seen reference to wind turbines being at the new proposed site, are there more detailed plans in place?

No, there are no detailed plans in place, but we have previously said that we would want to make any new building as green and sustainable as possible. At our previous meeting we gave details of how this could be done, and wind turbines was one possible suggestion.

Will you start the work in 2018?

If these plans are approved, the build probably wouldn’t start until this time next year, with a potential October 2019 completion date.

Would this be a single project? Would everything happen at once or would the GP services happen first, before any housing?

We can’t say. Since our first round of engagement events there has been some significant interest from other organisations who would like to be a part of this. We would prefer a single, bigger building to be built over the breadth of the site.
Surely housing plays a big part in attracting community services to the new site?

Other third party providers have said already they are prepared to pay for the land so we have to wait and see how that develops.

Does the NHS have priority when it comes to planning, or do you have to go through the normal planning process with the council?

We have to go through the normal planning process.

NHS England says there is no demand for an NHS dentist in Wesham. I do not know of any NHS dentists for the Kirkham area.

No one has ever asked me if I would like an NHS dentist in Wesham. How do they know there is no demand?

This is something we do not necessarily agree with but are aware that a number of people have requested this. We may have to go back to NHS England to talk further about the possibility of a dentist on the site.

You say you are exploring options for Wesham Rehab Unit. Could you be more specific about what those options are?

We need to be looking at relocating the CCG staff and there are also other teams who could be operating on short-term leases who might look to relocate.

I am worried about Derby Road. It is like a race track sometimes. When does Lancashire County Council come into it as the road structure needs sorting out?

We have had Lancashire County Council's highways department up at the site and I asked them to give us an indication of what they think. They do not believe there will be any problems. They will not give us planning permission if we do not address any concerns so we will make sure the road is as safe as possible.

In another area once they got a nice new facility patients struggled to get an appointment because other people came in who wanted to go to the new health centre. Will this happen here?

Dr Stephen Hardwick (Kirkham Health Centre): We don’t believe this will happen because there are no other practices that are not involved in the move, so there are no other practices for people to relocate from. All the other neighbouring areas already have new health centres so we don’t see a problem like this. In fact this is the solution to that problem because if we do nothing then the increase in population in the local area will make it more difficult to get appointments as we will have no room to expand.

The demographics of the area will change – will the services reflect the changing need; for example, will you provide children’s clinics or pre- and post-natal services?

You are right that the age profile of the area will change and services will need to change to meet the demands of the population.
Public transport is the main issue. If you have a bus service the roads will have to be made one-way.

If it goes ahead, town planners will be involved to make sure the traffic flows.

Coastal Coaches stop running at 5pm – are they going to extend the times? If not, how are we going to get there?

Bus companies are owned by commercial companies who respond to demand. While we are sympathetic, unfortunately this is not an NHS responsibility. But we will work with these companies to ensure that services are available to reach the proposed centre.

The proposal seems driven by a property opportunity, rather than by service development. Also, by moving the practices from Kirkham town centre you will destroy the community.

There is a property opportunity, but the crucial bit is that the practices have no expansion space. There is no room to train GPs, for example, so we are unlikely to have a flow of new GPs to the area because they tend to remain where they trained. Health and care services in the future will be colocated, and there is no room for this currently. It is not reasonable to expect GPs to deliver the types of services their patients need in property that's not fit for purpose. There are health and safety issues too.

I am confused, because we are asked to look after ourselves, or go to the pharmacist, but you're talking about expanding services.

The most important thing that people can do is look after themselves. But equally, when they are unable to, we want to provide the very best services possible out of fit-for-purpose buildings. We should all expect the NHS to give us the best. I think we have an opportunity here to do that.

What happens if the survey isn’t representative. Would you seek to get the views of any underrepresentative groups?

Yes, we would seek to address that.

When will it be decided what services are moving into the facility? I do not see what difference the facility will make as the services seem to be similar to what we currently have.

If we do progress the development, we will work with clinicians and the public to determine the exact service scope. We are trying to put as many services as possible into community settings, and it will be an iterative process to determine what people need.

We are trying to make sure that we provide a better service than the one you have now. We want to engage with you as residents and people who use the practices to make sure your aspirations are met as much as possible.