

HEREFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST  
**PROVIDER COMMITTEE**

**PROPOSALS FOR STROKE SERVICES DEVELOPMENT  
IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 As part of the Neurological Clinical Implementation Team work programme, a review of Stroke Service provision in Herefordshire took place in the autumn 2005. Following this review, a consultation paper was developed on potential ways of improving Stroke Services within the current resources we had in the Health and Social Care community in Herefordshire.

1.2 Feedback on the consultation paper concluded in January, and this was collated into formal proposals for consideration and development, with an associated Action Plan. This information is attached in Appendices 1 and 2.

**2. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS**

2.1 Discussions have taken place specifically in relation to the proposal to allocate 12 of the beds at Hillside Intermediate Care Unit for acute stroke rehabilitation. The discussions have taken place:

- At the PCT Community Hospital meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006
- At PCT Commissioning Committee meetings
- With Herefordshire Council
- Herefordshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The proposal paper has been sent to the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for their comments.

Discussions are also planned at the Section 31 Hillside Intermediate Care meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

2.2 *Community Hospital Meeting*

Discussion took place about stroke rehabilitation at the PCT Community Hospital meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Those present agreed that patients with dense strokes should continue to be transferred from the County Hospital to Community Hospitals for their intense nursing care, with supported therapy.

Depending on the progress of these patients they could either continue their care at the Community Hospital or be transferred to Hillside Intermediate Care for intensive stroke rehabilitation if appropriate. This proposal forms part of the patient pathways proposed for rehabilitation within the proposal paper.

2.3 *Herefordshire Council*

Discussions have been taking place with the Council in relation to the proposal to allocate stroke rehabilitation beds for Herefordshire in

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Hillside Intermediate Care Unit. The Council have indicated their support for the change, but have required the following action to occur:

- The allocated beds will not be ring fenced only to stroke patients
- That the maximum length of stay of six weeks will apply to stroke patients
- That the 'step up' care pathway will be developed and supported by the PCT
- That a review of access to community hospital beds by members of the MDT be carried out in tandem with the development of stroke services at Hillside

2.4 *Overview & Scrutiny Committee*

The proposal paper in its Draft 3c form has been sent to Councillor Stuart Thomas as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee asking for his consideration. Any service changes do need to go through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to determine whether a full public consultation is required.

Councillor Thomas stated that there was much to be gained from the approach that we were proposing in developing stroke rehabilitation services in Herefordshire, utilising our current beds more effectively. He also wished for clarification in a number of areas which was provided.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

The Provider Committee are asked to consider the proposal for the development of Stroke Services within existing resources within Herefordshire. Feedback on the proposals from the Provider Committee will be used to inform discussions that will take place at the Commissioning Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

**Trish Jay**  
**Director of Clinical Development – Lead Executive Nurse**

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2006**