Project Up-Date
Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village is a:
- Diagnostic and treatment centre for the people of Aberdeen
- An urban community hospital without beds

The Health Village will, with the wider community care team, support people to remain well, independent and in their own communities and support self-care. This will help to reduce the flow of patients to the acute centre at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI).

The 85 week construction programme started in April 2012 with the building scheduled to be complete in November 2013 and brought into operation in December 2013. The adjacent multi-storey car park, which is owned and will be operated by Aberdeen City Council, is nearing completion and will open early December 2012.

Work on site is progressing well with the programme currently two weeks behind the target programme; this is due to a number of reasons including bad weather in October. If you pass the site you will see the steel frame beginning to outline the extent of the building on this prominent city centre site.

High Level Construction Programme:
- Start on Site - April 2012
- Site Clearing and Demolition - May 2012
- Superstructure - December 2012
- Foundations and Substructure - January 2013
- Cladding - March 2013
- Roofing - April 2013
- Services and Finishes - September 2013
- Commissioning and Handover - 8 November 2013
- Functional Commissioning - 8 December 2013

In addition to the construction progress and plan for the commissioning and occupation of the building, a considerable amount of work is underway to redesign and, where appropriate, integrate services that will operate from the Health Village. A number of services will be relocating from various sites e.g. Woolmanhill Hospital and Denburn Health Centre, which are scheduled for closure over the next 1-3 years.

Jackie Bremner
Project Director
Health Village Arts Project
Interviews for the lead artist took place at the end of November 2012. Once appointed, the lead artist will work with the project and design teams, staff and Grampian Hospital Arts Trust (GHAT) to create an arts plan for the building. The arts project will be funded from donated monies, generated once an arts brochure has been produced by the lead artist and the arts project group during the winter of 2012/13.

Jackie Bremner
Project Director

Equipping the Health Village

From treatment couches to tendon hammers and office chairs to soap dispensers, a critical part of public and staff experiences when using the Health Village will be influenced by interactions with the environment and equipment.

A local Equipment Group meets each month and includes members with specialist clinical knowledge and skills alongside colleagues with experience to advise on clinical property, administration function and project management. Current activities include the review of sample items and monitoring an audit of existing equipment in those areas relocating to find items considered “fit for purpose” and appropriate to transfer rather than be replaced. We are agreed however, that equipment in public areas will be new.

The group is also keen to follow progress with the Village Arts Project, which will influence the choice of colours and types of materials to be used.

Equipment also includes the computers, printers and telephones we use and a separate audit of our current stock will take place early in the New Year by our e-Health colleagues. We will then be advised of what we require to purchase and those areas where use is high will be considered as priority for new kit.

Following discussions with Health Facilities Scotland, (a division of National Services Scotland) who provide technical guidance, support and advice on healthcare buildings and equipment. We have agreed their specialist involvement, particularly with radiology and dental service design and specifications. They will also deal with all other general equipment specification, procurement and, in less than a year from now, receipt and distribution of items at the Health Village.

Scott Dyker
Community Planning & Project Support Manager
Aberdeen City CHP

Administration Update

A sub group has been established to take forward the planning of the administrative function across the Health Village, incorporating all of the services which will operate there. Christina Cameron, Community Health Partnership (CHP) Business Manager is leading this workstream and chairs the monthly group whose membership includes CHP Support Managers, Stella McHardy for staff-side representation and Rachel Sheard from Human Resources.

The group has met three times and is developing process maps which follow the patient journey as they visit the Health Village to access services. So far the group has mapped a Minor Surgery appointment and a Podiatry appointment which has already proven fruitful in highlighting issues for further discussion with those services. As the work continues, it is planned that meetings will be held jointly with the relevant services to ensure a full understanding of the roles.

Christina Cameron
Aberdeen City CHP Business Manager

Allied Health Professions (AHPs): Working in new ways together

Several services will be located together in the Therapy area within the Health Village: Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Speech and Language Therapy, Podiatry and the Cardiac Rehabilitation service. These will provide clinics and/or group sessions within the new facility and, for some services, the Village will become the main work base for some of their community teams.

The Health Village will become the central hub within our city-wide service provision, with local clinics continuing to be provided across the city, linking in with this new resource as appropriate in a ‘hub and spoke’ model. We will ensure that patients who need access to the services that operate from the Village can do so but, if their needs can be met by their local services, they will continue to be seen in their local clinic.

Christina Cameron
Aberdeen City CHP Business Manager
Coming together in this way gives us the opportunity to plan how best to deliver these services for the future. Over the coming weeks and months we will be working through all aspects of how we currently provide these services with the aim to make sure we deliver these in the most effective and efficient way we can. All of the services are keen to look at how we make best use of this exciting new facility and to explore how we can work better together for the benefit of patients.

As a first step, we have started to review how we manage our referral processes to make sure we work in the most efficient way and importantly to ensure that we make access to all of these services as easy as possible for those who need them. This includes making better use of technology to support our patient booking systems and deploying our admin resources to best support these services.

Lynn Morrison
AHP Lead

Out-Patient Service and Minor Surgery in the Health Village
The Health Village will have an out-patient suite which includes 12 consulting and examination rooms. It is located on the ground floor immediately adjacent to the radiology suite (plain film and ultrasound). The minor surgery suite incorporates two minor procedure rooms and a range of support accommodation including two assessment rooms and two recovery bays; it is located on the first floor and is immediately adjacent to the dental unit.

Work to confirm the services to be delivered from these two departments is currently being discussed with a wide range of clinicians and managers across primary and secondary care. A multi-professional workshop was held in November 2012 to begin to outline the range and scope of out-patient and minor surgery services to be provided from the Village. A long list of options has been produced and will now be investigated with CHP and acute care colleagues. We hope to be in a position to confirm the range of services to be provided from the Village in spring 2013. A further update will be provided in the next edition of this newsletter.

Jackie Bremner
Project Director

Radiology Services in the Health Village
The Health Village includes a radiology suite which includes one plain film x-ray room and an ultrasound room along with support accommodation.

It is envisaged that the Health Village Radiology suite will deal with two main workstreams:
- One is referrals from general practice for plain film x-ray and ultrasound along with Woodend Hospital for city patients
- The second is work generated by the adjacent outpatient suite and from departments elsewhere in the building.

The radiology workload cannot be confirmed until there is certainty about the profile of clinics in the out-patient department. It is hoped that this will be clear in the spring of 2013.

In parallel, radiology colleagues are working with the specialist radiology procurement team at Health Facilities Scotland to procure the specialist radiology equipment for the Village. We hope to be able to confirm the equipment supplier in December 2012.

Lesley Berry
Unit Operational Manager, Radiology

Sexual Health Integration
Much work has been done on the integration of Genito-Urinary Medicine and Sexual and Reproductive Health over the last few years. Co-location in the Health Village will be the culmination of that work. A small group has been formed to lead the service through the next stages, and they have begun a number of staff engagement events to ensure all staff attached to the service have an opportunity to have their
say on how we should configure our service for the new building, and the emerging strategic priorities. Some of the things we are considering are drop-in clinics, room usage, outreach work and staff roles.

The next step is to produce an action plan outlining how we are going to work towards achieving our vision of how sexual health services will be delivered at the Health Village.

Christina Cameron
CHP Business Manager

Health Village Records Storage – The story so far
Initial plans for the Health Village envisaged local storage of current files and remote storage of non-current files in a managed offsite records store. During the intervening years NHS Grampian has considered a range of offsite storage options both hard copy and electronic storage. A number of services moving to the Health Village don’t yet benefit from electronic booking or records storage systems; this is particularly the case for AHPs. This means that we have thousands of records currently in paper form which require safe but accessible storage.

An exercise to look at the records storage options is nearing completion and will suggest that all non-current records for remote storage will be scanned and stored electronically. A paper outlining this preferred option and high level costing for the option is to be considered by the NHS Grampian Budget Steering Group in December 2012.

A Health Village Records Working Group, involving eHealth colleagues, has been established to look at the records storage requirements for each service. e-Health colleagues have highlighted similarities with the mental health way of working. Mental Health use Community Trak, which could meet the requirements of AHPs; this version of Trak could be the right solution for AHP services but as a clinical system, it will not be ready in time for the move in December 2013. In the meantime, it was agreed that Core Trak would be implemented for scheduling only, in time for the move to the Village. This would also be a requirement for AHP services out with the Health Village, the implementation of Trak may therefore be rolled out on a phased basis.

To inform planning it was agreed that two scoping exercises should be undertaken. The first scoping exercise is to scope how many clinics and users there will be in and out with the Health Village to quantify e.g. training requirements. The second scoping exercise is to find out what actual space each service requires for current records storage in the Health Village and how many records need to be scanned prior to moving.

Work is continuing with all AHP services to agree a plan for the scanning of non-current records prior to the move once the funding for the exercise has been agreed.

A considerable amount of work is still to be done in a short space of time but we’re positive that with some grit and determination we’ll get there!

Annie Cruickshank
Information Manager
Aberdeen City CHP

Look out for bi-monthly editions of this newsletter throughout 2013.


Find out more
You can keep up to date with the Health Village development at the NHS Grampian website
www.nhsgrampian.org/healthvillage

This newsletter is also available in large print, other formats and other languages, on request. Please contact NHS Grampian's Corporate Communications Department on 01224 551116 for a copy.