

### Stroke Review Across East Berkshire

The three East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (Slough CCG, Bracknell & Ascot CCG and Windsor, Ascot & Maidenhead CCG) are currently reviewing stroke services in the area, with the intention to improve outcomes for patients following a stroke.

The evidence is very clear that patients have a better chance of surviving and recovering from a stroke if they are treated with the right quality care at a specialist stroke unit as soon as possible after the stroke has taken place. The type of care and treatment received at this crucial time can affect the extent and speed of recovery of each stroke survivor.

We want:

- More people surviving stroke (better clinical outcomes);
- High quality, safe services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- A speedier recovery;
- Severity of patient disability reduced;
- More patients able to live independently following their recovery;
- Better likelihood of returning to work;
- Access to specialist staff, services and facilities;
- Access to rehabilitation services;
- Quality improvement programmes that ensure continuous improvement of high quality care, and;
- Services that are safe, sustainable and affordable for the future.

For this to happen, we need to make some changes to the way stroke services are currently provided.

The British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP) strongly supports the concept of stroke services being provided 24/7 in a well-resourced hospital environment, and guidelines by the Department of Health and the Royal College of Physicians have similar key themes. A summary and complete guidance will be available on the CCG website soon.

The “London Model” is one way to implement this which emphasises the importance of all suspected stroke patients being conveyed to a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) for their initial emergency care. This ensures that the patient is diagnosed, assessed and provided the right treatment and support as early on as possible.

### The Current Stroke Provision Across East Berkshire

If you live in Ascot, Maidenhead or Bracknell you are most likely to go to Frimley Park Hospital in Camberley or The Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Both hospitals offer excellent stroke services and the decision on which you go to will be based on a number of factors including the speed at which you can be transported there. Both The Royal Berkshire Hospital and Frimley Park Hospital are Hyper-Acute Stroke Units (HASU), so when patients are being seen at either hospital site, this is in line with clinical recommendations.

Currently, if you have a stroke and you live in Slough or Windsor you are likely to be treated at the Wexham Park Hospital of the NHS Frimley Health Foundation Trust which does not have a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit.

#### **What are the key challenges with the current provision?**

Since Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust has acquired the Wexham Park Hospital site, there have been significant improvements to quality across many services but concerns remain about stroke services. Quality indicators are monitored by the CCG as well as nationally through the Royal College of Physicians’ SSNAP (Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme) indicators.

Following on from Wexham Park Hospital’s performance against these indicators, the CCGs have had discussions with the provider and jointly agreed that they would not be able to provide HASU level of

service. This means that patients living in the Slough and Windsor areas would need to be taken to Wycombe Hospital Hyper Acute Stroke Unit for their emergency care following a stroke.

Audits have highlighted that all acute stroke units need to improve their quality and performance standards which vary widely. We are also aware that Post-acute rehabilitation services need to be improved among all providers, notably for Early Supported Discharge (ESD).

### How Can We Improve Stroke Services Locally?

We believe that by commissioning a stroke service that adheres to the BASP guidelines is in the best interest of our patients, and will support enhanced and improved recovery. We want:

- All stroke patients to be transported initially to a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU), at High Wycombe, Royal Berkshire or Frimley Park hospitals – not Wexham Park Hospital;
- 24/7 screening, consultant and other specialist support will be available on HASU sites;
- Rehabilitation services to include high-quality Physiotherapy; Speech and Language Therapy; Psychological support and Occupational Therapy;
- All patients to have access to appropriate multi-disciplinary team skills and have a comprehensive health and social care plan upon discharge, with a named person to contact;
- Patients to remain at the HASU for the duration of the acute stage of their care – 7-10 days
- Patients would then return to an in-patient or neuro rehab unit closer to where they live;
- All patients to be supported post-discharge from hospital with high-quality Early Supported Discharge (ESD) services, including psychological support and other further rehabilitation if needed.
- Wexham Park Hospital would no longer provide an acute stroke unit. Once Slough patients have completed the acute stage of their care, they will complete in-patient rehab at a local centre.
- We want to ensure we have the highest quality stroke services available for all patients across east Berkshire area.
- There needs to be a seamless service from an acute hospital to rehabilitation unit.
- We want to ensure we have the right kind of support at each stage.

The clinical evidence shows that if we are able to achieve the above objectives, our patients would have fast diagnosis, assessment and treatment and they would have the best possible chances of recovery. While some patients may need to travel further to get to a specialist stroke unit, they will benefit from being in the right place at the right time, having access to the right specialist staff and equipment, thereby improving their chances of survival and giving them a speedier recovery with less long term disability.

### Next Steps

East Berkshire CCGs plan to carry out patient and stakeholder engagement, including consulting with the local Health Overview and Scrutiny Boards and for meetings with individual providers to take place. If the plans are approved, representatives from Slough, Windsor, Ascot & Maidenhead and Bracknell & Ascot CCGs will then meet with providers to agree the details, including ensuring they are in a position to provide the extra capacity and that contracts and mobilisation plans are agreed. We aim to implement the new model by early 2016.

### How You Can Get Involved or Contact Us

We are working hard to make sure everyone has a voice in this work and that we are listening as much as talking. We plan to host engagement events to hear from you. If you have any questions or personal story you would like to share, please contact Ricky Chana, Project Manager. Tel: 01753 63 6480

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More information will be available on the CCG websites soon.