



September 17th, 2014

First chance to see plans for older people's hub

South Tyneside residents will be able to see at first-hand how the planned, £9m integrated care services hub for the borough could look on Thursday, September 25th.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded the contract by South Tyneside Council to build the state-of-the-art centre, which will offer enhanced services for older people, and their carers and families. Now, it is inviting the public, local councillors and representatives of voluntary agencies to view the architect's initial plans and a model of the building.

The Trust's Chief Operating Officer Steve Williamson said: "We hope as many people as possible will take this opportunity to take a look at what is being proposed and to discuss the plans with ourselves and the architect, P+HS, and give us their comments. We expect the development to be the largest of its kind in the UK and something of which everyone in South Tyneside can be truly proud and we want input from local people in the design from the outset."

The site earmarked for the development is at South Tyneside District Hospital, although this is subject to planning permission. The Trust aims to start construction work in early 2015 and to open the hub early in 2016.

Mr Williamson added: "We are really looking forward to working in partnership with the Council and key health, social care and voluntary sector agencies to realise our joint vision of a centre of excellence providing joined-up care for the borough's growing ageing population and increasing numbers of people with dementia."

The integrated care services hub will improve the wellbeing of older people, especially those with dementia, and offer them as much support as possible to enable them to live independently in their community, with appropriate support, for as long as possible. It will incorporate 80 beds, with around 30 older people living on the site and others accessing beds for short breaks when their carers are on holiday, or before going back to live at home.



Councillor Mary Butler, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Support Services at South Tyneside Council, said: “We know that, in line with the rest of the UK, we will see increasing numbers of older people living longer in the borough. We also know that there will be a 50 per cent increase in dementia across all ages by 2030 and a 138 per cent increase amongst people over 90.

“The hub is a reflection of our commitment to fully play our part in delivering the very best support for older people to enable them to have the best quality of life possible and to make choices about what they feel is best for them. This new development looks set to be an incredibly important resource for the borough so I’d encourage as many people as possible to come and look at the designs that the Trust are proposing.”

The initial plans for the hub will be available for viewing and discussion on Thursday, September 25th, from 3pm to 7pm, in The Reception Room, South Shields Town Hall.

Pictured above: The first photograph shows: How the hub will look

The second photograph shows South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Operating Officer Steve Williamson

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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