

RECONFIGURATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES

Accommodation Phase 3 reduce from 3 sites to 2 sites with the closure of ICAT

Introduction

The Ophthalmology Department, at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust has been considered a “fragile” service and has had many challenges. The Trust and Commissioners have recognised these challenges and a Risk Review meeting chaired by NHS England took place in October 2016.

One of the areas outlined for improvement was the Substandard and Fragmented Accommodation. The department strives to provide a high quality, safe service to patients and recognises that the patient accommodation forms an essential part.

Phase 1 - Since the review SaTH’s Trust Board has approved building work in The Copthorne Building to create a dedicated Eye Department. Work commenced in early 2017 and completed in June 2017.

Phase 2 - SaTH’s Trust board approved and the Paediatric Eye Department was completed in September 2018.

Phase 3 - Reduce from 3 sites to 2 sites with the closure of ICAT. This was approved in Trust Board meeting subject to engagement. Capital planning was approved for the project. Medical equipment has been signed off and funded by League of Friends. The projected has been delayed due to building regulations. Work has now commenced on removing and replacing the roof.

The Trust and Department recognise the importance of service user engagement and involvement with patients in considering changes in service provision. The following engagement sessions have taken place:

- 3 Stakeholder Engagement sessions (March 2017, January 2018 and July 2019) took place. Attendees were asked to consider the options to reconfigure Ophthalmology services. Representatives were invited to attend from Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire CCG’s, Healthwatch, RNIB, Macular Society, patients and SATH. The outcome was agreement to reduce to 2 sites.
- Patient survey took place with over 280 responses. 85% of respondents stated they would prefer to have one appointment with everything in it (ie preferred a one stop approach).
- Patient engagement with Quality Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments completed.
- Presentation to HOSC in January 2019 and July 2019 with positive outcome and support to reconfigure to 2 sites at RSH and PRH.

Implementation of phase 3

There has been a delay in building due to additional works required on Ward 35 and MLU associated with asbestos removal and improving fire precautions. Assurances have been made that works will be commencing however the Ophthalmology Department remain unclear on the timescales.

The Ophthalmology Department are seeking for a defined project plan to enable the implementation of the operational move plan.

Automation

Ophthalmology delivers injections into patients' eyes at RSH within outpatient treatment rooms. These injections treat conditions such as Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration. Following a number of trials the service implemented a "one stop" injection service.

To enable the one stop service to proceed smoothly an automation system (a secure system) is required to ensure service delivery of the drugs is safe. This project has been approved however, was delayed due to pressure on IT resource.

The project has now recommenced with a provisional go live date of Tuesday 14th April provided IT resource continues to be prioritised.