

Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group

Exciting new developments in Thanet

Since NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was formed in 2013, we have been talking to you, our local residents, about what you want from health services in the future.

We have held public meetings, regularly talk to representatives from GP practices' patient participation groups, and, since June 2017, we have been holding regular "Esther Cafés" with people who use NHS and care services, to hear what you think is important and what changes you want to see.

The main things you told us you want are:

- a "one stop shop", where you can go to access the vast majority of the health and social care services you need in one place
- joined-up teams to look after people with more complicated needs, so you get care for all your needs and you only have to tell your story once
- more effort on keeping people healthy – prevention is better than cure.

Based on this, we are working really hard to make sure we deliver the "one stop shops" you asked for, where you can be seen by health, social care, wellbeing council and voluntary services working individually and together, and where you can improve your own health.

We are delighted to have been allocated in principle £6.5million of NHS funding, subject to further NHS England checks, for an extension to Bethesda Medical Practice to kick off this new approach in Margate.

At the Bethesda site, we propose to create a state of the art health facility, which will allow everyone to get all the medical and nursing services they expect in much more modern and accessible buildings with space for:

- enough consulting rooms for GPs and nurses to provide care for up to 32,000 patients
- clinics for physiotherapy, audiology, ophthalmology, ultrasound and minor surgery for patients from Margate and beyond
- integrated teams of GPs, nurses, community and mental health professionals, voluntary organisations, social care and Thanet District

Council staff to work together, coordinating treatment and support for individual patients with complicated health problems

- education and training rooms for medical staff during the week, which can be used by patient groups in the evenings and at weekends
- a café, community kitchen, gym for physio, outside gym area, allotment, and more, to help you lead a healthier lifestyle
- a bigger pharmacy.

For patients with complicated health problems, who need to use health and care services more than other people, this would mean:

- teams having tailor-made plans to help you stay well and get the right care quickly when you need it
- you having to tell your story and be assessed only once – not multiple times – thanks to better communication between professionals and more joined-up working
- more opportunities for you to find out how to manage your health problems, both from health professionals and from other patients – helping you to live well with long-term illness.

The proposed development would put Margate at the forefront of a new type of healthcare, which aims to provide far more care and support in people's own communities, without the need for people to go to an acute (main) hospital.

Bringing staff together under one roof would improve health and care services for patients and make Margate a real draw for medical professionals and care staff, reducing recruitment problems we sometimes experience. And it would give people more chances to take care of their own health.

It's not just doctors, nurses and medicine that make you well. Exercise, diet, steering clear of things that damage health (such as smoking, drinking to excess and drugs) and less tangible things, such as friendship, helping other people, and learning new things, can add life to your days and days to your life.

The proposed development at Bethesda is part of NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group's long term strategy for improving local people's care.

There are still a number of things that need to happen to make this a reality:

- we want to hear from local people what mix of services they think should be provided in the new space, to achieve the best outcomes.
- Northdown Surgery has said it would like to merge with Bethesda and move to the new building. But both practices must formally apply to do this, consult with patients, and satisfy the CCG that there are good arrangements in place for all patients, including people who would struggle to reach Bethesda. This is essential if the merger is to be approved.
- the £6.5million investment will only be released by NHS England if they are certain that the plan will achieve good outcomes for patients, and good value for money. They will scrutinise it with great care.

Broadstairs and Ramsgate

We also aspire to secure a multi-million health and care centre for Westwood Cross, to be the community hub for Broadstairs and part of Ramsgate.

This could potentially be the base for up to six different GP practices, as well as having the sort of facilities planned for Bethesda.

Plans for Westwood are at an early stage. We will ask for local people's views about the proposal to help us understand what services they would like to see provided together, in the potential new building, and what concerns they have, including their views on anything that needs to stay local.

If we are successful in securing this new building, it is likely some practices across the area would want to merge and deliver all their services from there, others may deliver some services from Westwood and some from their current buildings and others may want to keep all services at their current site but work closely with the Westwood teams.

If we achieved this, there would be two fantastic health and care buildings in Thanet which are open not just to the patients of the GP practices based there, but also anyone in Thanet who wants to use them.

The Villages

We are looking at options for developing the GP practices in Westgate, Birchington, and Minster so they can expand to provide services for the expected population growth in their areas. Their patients would be able to make use of many of the extra services – such as minor operations, extra clinics, health improvement services, council advice, the community kitchen, gym and cafe – provided at the potential new “one stop shops”.

We will make sure that people who would struggle if their practice moved base will still be able to access medical care. We are in discussions about arrangements for public or community transport.

Fit with Local Plan

We are looking at the impact on health services of the potential increase in population set out in the Thanet Local Plan, so that we can meet the future needs.

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