

AGENDA ITEM:

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

12 OCTOBER 2011

**NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
EVIDENCE FROM WHICKHAM VILLA**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce senior representation from Whickham Villa, in attendance at the Panel meeting to provide their perspective on the current approach to Neurological Services and how those approaches may be developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the evidence submitted by Whickham Villa, in the context of the overall Panel review into Neurological Services.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Panel identified Neurological Conditions as an area of priority for this municipal year's work programme. The Panel will recall that so far, it has considered evidence from the North East Neuroscience Network and the South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust.
4. The Panel has shown a strong interest in considering the role that rehabilitation plays in someone's health, once the patient is out of the acute phase of a neurological illness or injury.
5. As such, senior representatives of Whickham Villa LLP will be in attendance at the meeting today to provide information of the sorts of services they offer, how they contribute to a patients recovery and how that recovery make be structured. They will also be able to share their views with the Panel on where neurological services need to develop.
6. Whickham Villa LLP, at its Chase Park site, offers neurological rehabilitation delivered by a multidisciplinary team including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and clinical neuropsychologists. Its website describes it as:

Chase Park Rehabilitation Centre provides 28 single bedrooms and 2 independent living apartments for people aged 18 and over.

The facility is equipped to support the re-learning of every day skills and stimulate the senses, as well as to meet our service users' care, nursing, rehabilitative, respite and continuing care needs, whilst also offering opportunities for relaxation and tranquility.¹

7. It is also an *Headway* approved provider of care for people with brain injuries, about which its website says:

“Chase Park Rehabilitation Centre has become only the third in the UK to be given Approved Provider Status by the charity Headway - the brain injury association.

Award-winning Chase Park Rehabilitation Centre – part of Whickham Villa LLP – received this significant seal of approval following a number of successful inspections of its Gateshead-based site.

Chase Park, which supports people with acquired brain injury and complex neurological conditions, was invited earlier this year to be one of 14 pilot sites across the UK to be assessed for the new scheme and becomes the first in the North-East to gain full approval.

The Headway initiative, which is supported by the Department of Health, has approved Chase Park for a two year period. The news is a major boost for the region's healthcare sector, particularly those involved or affected by specialist care and rehabilitation for people with brain injury.

Headway promotes the understanding of all aspects of brain injury and developed the scheme to set service benchmarks for excellence and to help differentiate between care homes, respite units and specialist transitional rehabilitation establishments such as Chase Park. The aim is to provide families with greater information and guidance when choosing such services for their loved ones.”²

8. As is clear from the above information, Whickham Villa and the neurological based services it provides at Chase Park are an important aspect of service provision for neurological rehabilitation in the North East. As such, it was felt important that the Panel be able to speak with senior representatives of Whickham Villa and seek their views on the matter. On the basis of the work that the Panel has already done, the following questions have been prepared and submitted to Whickham Villa LLP for consideration. It is anticipated that representatives of Whickham Villa LLP will outline the services they offer, address the questions outlined below, ahead of dealing with any additional questions from the Panel.
- 8.1 Could you provide an overview of the services that Whickham Villa offers, with particular attention to Chase Park and the meaning of 'step forward'?
- 8.2 To what extent is Chase Park regularly commissioned by the NHS? What is the average split between NHS and privately funded service users?

¹ Please see <http://www.whickhamvilla.co.uk/chase-park/chase-park-facilities>

² Please see <http://www.whickhamvilla.co.uk/chase-park/headway-approved-provider>

- 8.3 In your view, what does Chase Park offer to the service mix in the North East for neuro patients, when compared to other available services?
- 8.4 What are your views on the value for money, as opposed to simple cost, that Chase Park offers commissioners?
- 8.5 What is Chase Park's occupancy rate and to what extent is there a 'waiting list'? Where do those people come from?
- 8.6 To what extent is Chase Park's methodology evidenced in the outcomes for service users?
- 8.7 Do you have any general views on how the NHS in the North East approaches Neurological Services and specifically Neurorehab?
- 8.8 Where should neurological services in the North East develop from here?
- 8.9 Where do you envisage Chase Park developing from here?
9. Following the Panel's consideration of the evidence presented by Whickham Villa LLP, the Panel is asked to note that the next meeting will be receiving evidence from regional and local commissioners of neurological services.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. The Panel is asked to note that Whichkam Villa LLP will be making a short presentation to address the above questions, as well as bringing written information on the day.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)
Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk