

What you said about Clevedon Hospital during the 'Shaping our Future' Consultation in 2006...

A modern community hospital in North Somerset

Views of the public

There was general agreement that North Somerset needed a modern community hospital and that it should be based in Clevedon. One person favoured a site outside Clevedon.

A number of people acknowledged that that Clevedon Hospital is currently in poor condition and offers limited access. Fifteen people thought that refurbishment was the best option. Others thought that refurbishment would be an expensive and short-term solution. A number of people had concerns about the shortage of parking on the current site.

Seven people said that a new hospital should be built on the current site. One person suggested purchasing properties behind the hospital to expand the site. One person was concerned about how services would continue if the hospital were rebuilt on site.

Sixteen people preferred the new site option. Two people thought that a new build would be an easier process than refurbishment. Two people said that the community hospital should be built in Nailsea because of its good motorway access.

People generally supported proposals to extend the catchment area for Clevedon Hospital. Two people said that the hospital would need to be bigger than the current facility if this was to happen. One person said that it would also be necessary to put new transport solutions in place.

Two people said that it was vital to maintain beds in the hospital, as it was difficult for visitors to travel to Weston and Bristol, and the facility reduced bed blocking. Three people said the number of beds available should increase.

People also asked for: an accident and emergency department; day care; intermediate care; maternity services; outpatient clinics; 24-hour pharmacy; physiotherapy; respite care; and x-ray facilities. Two people complained about long waits for physiotherapy services.

"A new site would be fabulous but I'm realistic and refurbishment might be cheaper."

"[The site is] absolutely marvellous for the elderly people. It's just opposite the health centre, it's great for outpatients, just marvellous."

"The hospital does so many things for the town; it has outpatients, minor injuries, elderly people facilities and assessments. All towns could do with something similar to Clevedon Hospital."

"Clevedon hospital is wonderful."

“We want the Clevedon hospital kept where it is and expanded so that it can serve our increasing population.”

Stakeholder views

Stakeholders supported the concept of a community hospital and agreed that a hospital should be retained in Clevedon. The Clevedon Hospital League of Friends approved of the plans to enhance service.

North Somerset Council supported the plans, which they said were in line with the proposals within the white paper, ‘Our care, our health, our say’. The Council’s preferred option was to explore the possibility of refurbishing the existing hospital, as this would give an opportunity for further development of integrated health and social care services. However, they were concerned that the model of care planned for the north of the area was different from that in the south, and felt that further consideration should be given to ensuring that a comparable range of services is available throughout the area.

People said that: the hospital should be relocated to a new site as the current hospital needs complete refurbishment, is on a small land-locked site with limited parking and poor disabled access (9); there must be adequate parking facilities (8); the current site should be redeveloped as this could be done reasonably quickly (7); the hospital should be a new-build, as this would offer higher standards (6); and that continuity of service must be maintained. There was general agreement that the services offered from Clevedon Hospital should be available to all North Somerset residents, but two people thought that if this happened, bed numbers would need to increase. Two people challenged the assumption that the community hospital should be in Clevedon, and one thought Nailsea would be a more accessible location.

Stakeholders said that the hospital should include: GP led beds; intermediate care beds (2); minor injuries unit (4); older people’s services; outpatient clinics run by WAHT; rehabilitation services; respite beds; shared space for secondary healthcare services and voluntary services (2); storage facilities; and x-ray facilities (2).

One group suggested that a better option would be to strategically place PCRCs with some beds, as this could release resources to pay for respite beds in upgraded nursing homes. One person said that integrated therapy services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and rapid response teams, should be based together in Clevedon. One group said that until a proper assessment of cost and feasibility was carried out, it would be difficult to choose between the two options.

Other concerns included: the effect that developments at Clevedon might have on Weston General Hospital and its continued viability (4); that a hospital in Clevedon would not meet the needs of people living in Weston-super-Mare; the financial risk associated with relocation, as the increased running costs might be unsustainable; and the use of PFI to fund the development.