

Executive

SUPPORT FOR THE HORTON HOSPITAL

6 APRIL 2009

Report of Strategic Director Environment & Community

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a request for a donation to the cancer appeal fund

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) Agree to donate £30,000 to support the Brodey Centre Cancer Care Appeal Fund

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 A request has been received for a donation to the £300,000 Brodey Centre Cancer Care appeal fund to expand the current cancer care services provided at the Horton General Hospital.

Proposals

- 1.2 It is recommended that the Council supports the appeal fund as this will assist in the delivery of improved and extended much needed services at the Horton General Hospital.

Conclusion

- 1.3 To donate £30,000 to the appeal fund.

Background Information

- 1.1 The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Cancer Campaign is aimed at expanding the Brodey Centre (Cancer Outpatient Department at the Horton Hospital Banbury). The Brodey Centre was built with donations from the public and opened in 1998. Since then some 2,000 patients per annum have benefited from having outpatient cancer chemotherapy treatment in Banbury.
- 1.2 As cancer treatment improves, more patients are having chemotherapy. Patients with chronic leukaemia are treated as outpatients and day case patients in the Brodey Centre. The largest haematology workload at the Brodey Centre involves chemotherapy for lymphomas (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's) and transfusions for patients with bone marrow failure syndromes.
- 1.3 More space is needed for patients and their relatives and friends to wait, for patients to have treatment and for staff to undertake associated administrative/clinical work. It is hoped to double the treatment space, extend the waiting area and provide desk space for the chemotherapy, breast care and palliative care nurses. The plan is to keep the current homely yet professional atmosphere.
- 1.4 The appeal is looking to raise £300,000 including furnishings and equipment. To date, almost £250,000 has been raised. The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust is committed to funding current and future staff requirements which will be part of the budget setting and business planning process. It has already invested in extra clinical and support staff to enable the Centre to treat more patients, and offer them access to important clinical trials. In addition, it will fund on-costs such as the ongoing maintenance of the building and equipment.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 A key issue is the extent to which this extended facility and service will meet current and future local demand. The Trust has a strong commitment to providing out-patient chemotherapy at the Brodey Centre. Predicted levels of activity clearly show that chemotherapy services are at the forefront of delivering effective and efficient treatment to cancer patients. The national cancer reform strategy sets out the need to ensure that patients have fast access to high quality treatment for cancer including drug treatment (i.e. chemo) and reiterates that such care 'should be delivered locally wherever possible to maximise patients convenience'. Extending the Brodey Centre allows this goal to be achieved.
- 3.2 It could be argued that the Trust should be paying for this. The key point here is the differences that gifts can make to this expansion mainly impact patient comfort, flexibility for the Centre's future and the suitability of the space available for clinical staff to work together as an efficient team. While valued by patients and staff alike, limited NHS funding does not always allow such projects to be funded when set beside more immediate and basic needs. Over the longer term, the Trust will spend significantly more than the fundraising target to support future staffing and equipment. Charitable gifts act as a jump-start, enabling patients to feel the benefit of the Trust's investment more immediately.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendation is believed to be the best way forward as per Option 1

Option One To make a donation to the appeal fund of varying levels
Option Two Not to make a donation

Consultations

None undertaken

Implications

Financial: A donation of £30,000 can be funded as a result of the additional investment income received in January 2009 from the Council's investments with Investec. These have seen a short term increase as a result of the sharp decline in Bank of England base interest rate. £30,000 can be commuted to an earmarked provision for this appeal.

Comments checked by Karen Curtin, Chief Accountant, 01295 221551

Legal: There are no legal issues arising from this report

Comments checked by Liz Howlett, Head of legal and Democratic Services, 01295 221686

Risk Management: There are no risk issues arising from this report other than reputational should the Council decide not to donate

Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management and Insurance Officer, 01295 221566

Wards Affected

All Wards

Corporate Plan Themes

Under the Council's Safe and Healthy strategic priority, there is a five year aim to help to deliver improved healthcare for Bicester and Banbury. A donation to the Brodey Centre appeal is entirely consistent with this aim and strategic priority.

Executive Portfolio

Councillor George Reynolds
Portfolio Holder for Community, Health and Recreation

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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