

**REPORT TO THE PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD ON: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

<b>Enclosure:</b>					
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Development of Sound Proof Audiology Booth</b>				
<b>Lead Director:</b>	<b>Geraint Griffiths</b>				
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Jane Chapman</b>				
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>For Approval</b>		<b>For Discussion</b>		<b>For Information</b> X

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To inform the PbC Governance Board of a planned expansion to the ENT Triage Service at Wolverhampton Road surgery.**

**KEY POINTS:**

Stafford and Surrounds commissions an ENT Triage service from Wolverhampton Road Practice which has reduced waits for ENT, demonstrated high levels of Patient and GP satisfaction and reduced costs for the Consortia.

The Practice, supported by SaS Commissioning Consortia, has been successful in obtaining an Improvement Grant, through the Capital and Estates Subgroup which has subsequently approved by the PCT Board.

This paper is to outline the service to be provided and inform the PbC Governance Board of proposed change.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Legal and/or Risk</b>	
<b>Standards for Better Health</b>	Expansion of service closer to home for patients
<b>Financial</b>	£30K identified Capital Group
<b>Training</b>	
<b>PBC</b>	Supported by Stafford and Surrounds PbC Commissioning Consortia
<b>Other</b>	

**RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION REQUIRED:**

**For information**

**1. Background**

Wolverhampton Road Practice in Stafford, supported by the ENT Department at Mid Staffs Hospital Foundation Trust, has run an ENT Triage Service for two years. The Service is offered to all Stafford Practices, using the willing provider model. The Service has demonstrated excellent results in terms of quality, evidenced through Patient and GP Questionnaires, and VFM.

**2. Development**

Wolverhampton Road Practice has successfully bid for an Improvement Grant, of £30k, through the Capital and Estates Group and the funding has been approved by Board. The capital will be used to develop a sound proof booth in which to carry out hearing tests. The test result will identify whether patients require a hearing aid in which case they will be referred to the Audiology Department or other course of treatment. The equipment purchased will be compatible with that used at the Mid Staffs Hospital so that results can be shared to avoid the need for reduced testing.

**3. Benefits of the development**

The Practice have identified that they could reduce the number of appointments patients require if they could offer hearing tests within the Practice.

Through the commissioning process the PCT will unbundle diagnostic tests from the cost of OP appointments. When the tariff is unbundled further savings will also be made as the Practice will charge less than the indicative tariff for Audiology.