

PRESS RELEASE

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Consultation gives people a chance to have their say on future of local health services in Northern Staffordshire

Local NHS organisations in North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have launched a major consultation.

The consultation asks for local people's views on proposed changes to:

- Community-based services in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Moorlands
- Community hospital beds available for rehabilitation
- Some of the consultant-led outpatients clinics such as outpatients appointments for skin conditions.

The consultation will last for 14 weeks, finishing on Sunday 17 March 2019. It gives people a chance to have their say on proposals aimed at providing high quality community services that will help people stay well and avoid unnecessary stays in acute hospitals.

The health and care system in Northern Staffordshire faces many challenges. The CCGs have been working for the past two years with local people, local health partners, GPs, health professionals and our local politicians to look at better ways to deliver community services. They have used this feedback to develop proposals to address these challenges and are now asking local people to give their views before any decisions are made.

Dr Steve Fawcett, Clinical Director for Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire CCGs explained: "We face a number of challenges, including finances and rising demand for health and care services, which means we need to look at different ways to deliver our services if we are to continue to offer the best possible care within the resources available.

"This is the first part of our plans to look at how services could be delivered

differently and how health and social care across the whole of Staffordshire could be transformed. Many organisations including local authorities, voluntary organisations and other health professionals are working together towards this aim as part of a partnership called Together We're Better.”

The proposals are based on a new model of care that aims to deliver joined-up services with care closer to home and people at the heart of how services are delivered. By investing in community-based integrated care the need for community hospital beds could be reduced. It is known that patients' health tends to worsen quickly if they stay in a hospital bed when they are well enough to go home. Under the new care model providing support tailored to the individual, people would be able to safely and confidently move out of hospital back home with better outcomes and a better experience of care.

Marcus Warnes, Accountable Officer for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs said: “Our proposed new model of care aims to join together key services in the community through integrated care hubs, meaning that people will be able to access the services they need in one place without the need to go to hospital unless really necessary. We believe the suggested model of care and options in this consultation will help us offer safe, high quality services close to where people live.

“By having a say you will be helping us decide how to deliver services that may affect you, your family, friends or people you care for. No decisions have been made – we want to know your views before we make any decisions.”

Ends

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