

Local NHS organisations help more people have their say

North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) want to ensure that as many people as possible can give their views on the future of local health services in northern Staffordshire.

One of the ways that has been done is to provide information in a variety of formats including working with Assist to develop clear (easy read) versions of the consultation document.

Assist is an organisation that ensures people with learning disabilities or mental health conditions are supported in speaking up for themselves.

Dr Lorna Clarson, Clinical Director for Partnerships & Engagement for North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs said: “We worked with Assist to create these accessible documents so that information on the consultation is easy for everyone to understand. These clear documents use plain language and clear images to make the information more accessible to people with learning disabilities.

“Assist worked with local people with learning disabilities so that these documents met their needs and were based on their input and their suggestions. This means that we can be confident that our clear versions really do help those who need them to tell us what they think.”

The CCGs have also produced a range of videos, a summary document and a series of Spotlight documents which focus on some of the detailed information from the Pre-consultation Business Case, all with the aim of enabling people to understand what the proposals involve and complete the survey.

“The changes proposed in this consultation will have an effect on the lives of many people in North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to find out about the proposals and have their say on the future of health services in the area. These clear documents are just part of our commitment to ensuring access to information.”

The clear (easy read) version of the consultation document can be accessed [here](#).

People are being encouraged to share their opinions before the consultation closes on 17 March 2019 by completing the official survey. This is available online or by requesting a hard copy survey to complete and send back via Freepost.

The survey can be accessed at <https://www.elesurvey.co.uk/f/615263/1536/> or via the consultation website <https://www.healthservicesnorthstaffs.nhs.uk/> where there is also further information including the full consultation document.

END

Notes to editor

The consultation runs until Sunday 17 March 2019.

For more information including completing the online survey visit: www.healthservicesnorthstaffs.nhs.uk.

Or call 01782 298002 or email consultation.northstaffsstoke@nhs.net.

The responses received during the consultation will be analysed independently and a report produced. This report will be presented to North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs for consideration before any decisions on service change are taken. This meeting will be held in public and all the relevant documents and a report on the event will be published on the consultation website www.healthservicesnorthstaffs.nhs.uk.

For all enquiries and requests for interviews please contact the press office: mediacsu@nhs.net or call **0333 150 1602**