

Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire

Stakeholder Brief – March 2014

Governing bodies and Trust Board accept independent clinical review panel report

The Governing Bodies of the three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Worcestershire – NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove, NHS South Worcestershire and NHS Wyre Forest and the Board of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have accepted that the recommendations of the Independent Clinical Review Panel provide a safe and clinically sustainable model for hospital services.

In addition, the three CCGs, as the commissioners of health services in Worcestershire, have approved the case for change as set out in the Independent Clinical Review Panel report.

The CCGs and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust will now work with member GP practices, local people and NHS partners to take these recommendations forward for full work-up, assurance by NHS England and public consultation.

The expert Panel recommended:

- Creation of a networked 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital. Hospital based emergency services across Worcestershire will be networked and led by consultants with an 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital and a 'Major Emergency Centre' at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital
- Consultant led maternity services should be centralised at WRH but Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG should consider commissioning a stand-alone midwife-led birth centre for North Worcestershire
- Paediatric inpatients should be centralised in Worcester but a day-time consultant-led paediatric assessment unit at the Alex would accept referrals from GPs and other professionals.
- The Clinical Commissioning Groups and Worcestershire County Council should review the public transport links between North Worcestershire and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The three CCGs are now responsible for the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire programme going forward.

Update on public consultation

The Programme Board is working towards putting the recommendations from the Independent Clinical Review Panel out to full public consultation in the summer/autumn. During the consultation we want to talk to people at local roadshows and events and to attend as many meetings hosted by local groups and organisations as possible. If you would like us to attend a meeting which you are involved with please contact communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk and once we know the dates of the consultation we will

contact you to see if we can find a suitable date to meet with you. We would also like to send you articles for any magazines you publish. If you have any suitable magazines please e-mail the details to communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk

The plans for public consultation are being led by an independent Patient and Public Engagement group which consists of local people including patients and politicians.

What happens next?

Now that there is a consensus on the clinical model for acute hospital services in Worcestershire further work is being undertaken to refine it to understand exactly how each service could be delivered in the future. The financial implications of the clinical model are also being examined to ensure that the plans are affordable to the health economy.

If the clinical model is adopted following public consultation it is inevitable that some patients will go out of Worcestershire for treatment and we are working with other providers and commissioning groups to understand what impact our proposals could have on them.

Work has also started on a Health Equality Impact Assessment which will identify what effect the proposed changes will have on different people and groups.

The programme team is also working with NHS England to ensure that the four tests for service reconfiguration will be met. These are:

- strong public and patient engagement;
- consistency with current and prospective need for patient choice;
- a clear clinical evidence base; and
- support for proposals from clinical commissioners.

Transport and Access

As part of the programme the three Clinical Commissioning Groups are committed to working with Worcestershire Council on transport and access issues. We realise how important it is for people to be able to travel to the county's three main hospitals and we want to ensure that the final proposals do not disadvantage people.