

Local Supporters Travel to Westminster

Supporters of the community hospitals met MPs at Westminster to discuss their views on the future of community hospitals, in particular Leek Moorlands and Bradwell Hospitals, and to hand in a petition calling for Leek Moorlands Hospital to be saved. Dr Lorna Clarson, the CCGs' Clinical Director for Partnerships and Engagement and a local GP, attended the meeting along with Sir Neil McKay, Chair of the Staffordshire Together We're Better partnership.

Local Health Scrutiny Bill

You may have seen that Gareth Snell MP tabled a motion in the House of Commons on Wednesday 7th March to introduce a Local Health Scrutiny Bill, which was approved and will receive its second reading on 6th July. The Bill seeks to impose a maximum 45 day time limit between a referral from a local authority being received by the Secretary of State (SoS) and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) publishing its report. It would also seek to put any decision referred to the SoS on hold until such time as the IRP has deliberated and provided its advice to the SoS. On the face of it, this seems very sensible as a number of referrals, the one from Stoke-on-Trent City Council regarding the community hospitals for instance, took over a year to conclude.

The CCGs recognise and value the role of local councillors in ensuring that health and social care decisions represent the best outcomes for patients and await the outcome of the second reading in July. There are lessons that we have taken on board from the early stages of the My Care My Way review and the IRP report. Over the past few months we have been listening to views from local partners, people and patients as we work together to develop the best solution for each community.

We are also working closely with the Consultation Institute and the West Midlands Clinical Senate to ensure our processes are robust. No decisions will be made until after a formal consultation has taken place.

Next Steps

Once our Pre-Consultation Business Case is prepared, we will submit it to NHS England for their consideration and to go through their assurance process to make sure that we have considered everything that we need to and that our proposals meet their tests. This process is likely to take a couple of months.

Only when that process has been completed will we be able to formally consult on the proposals and no decisions will be made until this process is complete.

We will keep you updated as we work through the process. We will be open and transparent throughout and will publish all of the information, including the materials used and produced at events, on our websites:-

<https://www.stokeccg.nhs.uk/stoke-get-involved/consultation-engagement/the-future-of-local-health-services>

and

<https://www.northstaffsccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/consultation-engagement/the-future-of-local-health-services>