

Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire CCGs today encouraged all people living and working in North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent including representative groups of interested patients and campaigners to have their say and participate in the current Future of Local Health Services Consultation.

The call comes as the CCGs have formally responded to a legal challenge to the consultation. While the CCGs support the claimants to have their say as part of the consultation, the CCGs deny the claimants legal challenge in full.

Marcus Warnes, Accountable Officer of the CCGs, said: “We have always been confident that the consultation is being carried out correctly and in the best interests of our local communities. The consultation is also being overseen by the Consultation Institute and a joint Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee with members from both Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, providing even more assurance to local people that this consultation is being delivered in line with best practice and is fully compliant with legal requirements.

“We are proposing a new model of care for community health services based on clinical evidence that will improve health outcomes and give local people a better experience of care, closer to home that is more joined-up and accessible.

“No final decisions have been made and I would encourage as many people as possible to take part in the consultation and attend local meetings. We have always been willing to meet with the group that brought the challenge and that remains the case.”

A wide range of events have been undertaken with a large number yet to take place, including public workshop events that will take place in Newcastle, Cheadle and Leek. People who wish to attend are asked to book a place in advance as capacity is limited. Details of all events can be found on the Future of Local Health Services webpage.

The 14 week consultation runs until Sunday March 17.