

Designing Your Future Local Health Services in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire

May 2018

Developing the Options for Consultation

May has been a really busy month in which we have been involving clinicians, providers, commissioners and patient representatives in developing the options that we will formally consult on in the autumn this year. It feels like a good time to provide an update on what's been happening towards developing a pre-consultation business case with viable scenarios for each location.

The West Midlands Clinical Senate

We were delighted to host a visit by the West Midlands Clinical Senate early in the month. The Panel of clinical experts visited each of the community hospitals and had an in-depth briefing on the clinical case for change. Later in the month, we spent a day with them in Birmingham for a rigorous investigation into the proposed model of care and the proposals under consideration. The Panel is now reviewing their findings and we look forward to their report which we expect to receive in June. There will be a further day of investigation in July where the Senate will review our preferred option from a clinical perspective as part of the NHS England assurance process.

The Proposals

The information and ideas provided in a public survey and feedback from the Listening Events we held from October to December was independently analysed by the Centre for Health and Development. We used this information, along with a lot of information about the services currently provided at the Community Hospitals and analysis of local health needs at Options Development Events in January and February. We have collated this information and used it to develop a set of proposals. The first proposals concern the future provision of rehabilitation beds and the second is to create integrated care hubs to provide services based on local health needs.

Some of the services that have been suggested by participants in the process so far are not commissioned by the CCG and whilst we can work with our partners to discuss the provision of those services, the CCG cannot consult on them. To help you to see this more clearly, we have collated all the suggestions and indicated whether they are being included in the proposals. ['You Said – We Did'](#) can be found on the website.

Technical Assessment of the Proposals

On 16th May, a group of technical experts met to undertake an assessment of the proposals against a set of hurdle criteria:

- Clinical Sustainability;
- Meets National & Local Strategy; and
- Affordability

In order to be open and transparent about the discussions held in the meeting and the consensus reached about the assessment of the long list of proposals, we have published the [Minutes of the Technical Expert Meeting](#).

Options Appraisal

We invited a reference groups of representatives of patients, local authorities, providers and hospital support groups to help us to assess how acceptable the shortlisted proposals would be against three criteria which they had previously helped us to define. 25 people made an assessment of the proposals for both community beds and wider community services from the perspective and relative important of:-

- Quality of Care
- Accessibility
- Local Health Needs

In order to help participants to reach an informed opinion, we provided supporting information about how we measure quality, local transport information and health inequality data.

The [Options Appraisal Event Slides](#) , [Data Packs](#) and the [Handouts](#) are available following these links.

At a meeting of the Reference Group to consolidate and discuss the proposals on 10th May, participants had told us that they needed further explanation of how our data modelling had arrived at a prediction that circa 132 rehabilitation beds would be needed in the proposed model. We have created a [Spotlight on modelling the beds](#) to help people to understand how the analysis was done and the information we used.

We met with the Reference Group again on 30th May to feedback to them the [results of the scoring process](#) they have undertaken.

We acknowledge that the Reference Group is not a representative sample of the entire population of Northern Staffordshire, however, they are a group of informed individuals who understand the services provided in their local area. They gave us a view of the acceptability of the proposals from their perspective. We will also be running the appraisal process with other groups over the coming weeks so that we can compare and contrast different opinions.

Links with Together We're Better: the Staffordshire Transformation Partnership

We have received feedback from some of our key stakeholders, particularly local MPs, that we may confuse people when we formally consult on the community beds in the north of Staffordshire and the proposals for integrated care hubs with the wider issues that affect the whole of Staffordshire health services which come under the remit of the STP.

Services such as Urgent Treatment Centres, elective surgery and maternity services amongst others, will be included as part of the STP engagement which will start later in the summer. Whilst it will be difficult for people to understand the differences between one process and the other, we will do everything we can to communicate the differences clearly. We could have taken the decision across the system to delay the consultation about community hospitals in the north and include it with the STP, however, we did not feel that this would be appropriate as we did not wish to delay the process any further.

Keeping You Updated

We know that the CCGs' websites can be difficult to navigate and to that end we are developing a microsite which will be dedicated to the Future of Local Health Services and will go-live towards the end of June. This will host all of the documents we have published over the last few years and will provide everything people will need to know and do to be fully involved in the formal consultation later in the year.

We have been busy writing the plan for how we will undertake the formal consultation which we will publish once it has been signed off. In order to make sure that we reach all diverse communities when we formally consult on the proposals, we met with our Local Equality Advisory Forum on 23rd May to determine who and how we could involve groups that represent people with protected characteristics. This will be built into the consultation plan.

Now that there is a shortlist of proposals, we can assess them from a quality and equality impact perspective to make sure that any unintended consequences of the plans are mitigated and that the proposed services do not compromise patient safety and to make sure that they are not discriminatory.

How You Can Stay Involved

Now that you have considered all the documents and the work we have been doing during May, we would like to ask you:

Are there any options you feel that we have not considered?

If there are, please email mlcsu.northstaffsstoke@nhs.net by midnight on Sunday 10th June so that we can make sure that they are considered by the Technical Expert Group on 12th June.

Next steps

There is still a lot of work to do before the Pre-Consultation Business Case is considered by NHS England

Key Dates over the coming months

12 th June	Technical Experts Evaluation: Using feedback from Reference Groups and financial information
26 th June	Governing Body to be held in public to discuss the pre-consultation business case
17 th July	NHS England Regional Assurance Panel