

Stakeholder Brief

Special Edition

18 March 2010

Transforming Community Services - Update 3

Proposals to change the way services are managed as part of the national Transforming Community Services (TCS) initiative were agreed by the Board of NHS Worcestershire at a meeting this week.

Agreement now paves the way forward for the details to be submitted to the Department of Health and for formal public consultation on the proposal to take place after the General Election.

NHS Worcestershire proposes:

To transfer some specialist nursing services (eg diabetes and COPD) to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust.

To more closely integrate GP services with community nursing and therapy services, based around strengthening Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) in Worcestershire.

That an entirely new Community and Mental Health NHS Trust is established to manage all of the other Provider Arm services (including community hospitals) and the services that are currently provided by the Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

The TCS proposal was seen as a real opportunity to improve community and other services through more closely integrating services and by developing new models of management and organisational form.

Following numerous meetings that have taken place over the last few weeks, the final proposal has the support of Staff Side representatives, although concerns over possible management and administration savings have been raised, as well as how closer integration with GP services will be achieved. These are issues that will now be examined in more detail over the coming weeks.

The proposal to create a Community and Mental Health NHS Trust has also gained the support of the Clinical Senate. The Senate is, however, keen to stress the importance of retaining the flexibility to undertake further work on some of the alternative models of integration in the future.



NHS Worcestershire Chief Executive Paul Bates was pleased that the proposal received the full backing of the Board, but was keen to stress that this signalled only the beginning of the work that needs to be done:



Paul Bates also highlighted that despite no formal consultation on the proposal yet taking place, NHS Worcestershire has already undertaken considerable informal work in this area:

“ This proposal represents an exciting opportunity for Worcestershire, and would help deliver some of our key policies such as care closer to home and closer integration with primary and secondary care. It would also provide a platform to develop closer working practices with Worcestershire County Council.

“Most people we have spoken to agree that a closer integration of community and provider services will improve patient care, but there is still much debate and consultation to be done to see how we can achieve this.

“We now need to wait for the Strategic Health Authority to give us formal feedback on our proposal and we expect to receive this by Wednesday 31st March. If our proposal is approved then we shall want to proceed to formal patient and public consultation but it is inevitable that this will now not take place until after the General Election.”

“ We have already begun to canvass the opinions and views of staff, as well as hold meetings with various stakeholders. The information received from these activities has been very useful and has already been used to inform the proposal submitted to the SHA, and this process will continue over the coming months.”

Further briefings will be issued on a regular basis as this work progresses. For more details or to submit any comments for consideration in this process please email communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk