

Stakeholder Brief

September 2009

Responding to the Economic Challenge

NHS Worcestershire is working closely with the other Trusts in the county to initiate a partnership approach to the challenges posed by the changing economic environment.



The NHS will continue to receive significant levels of growth in funding above inflation for 2009/10 and 2010/11 (although less than in previous years) but the assumption is that from 2011/12 onwards the best case projections are that growth will equal inflation. Demographic changes, increasing demand and the assumption that the NHS will make efficiency savings of around 4% per year will all combine to place serious pressures on the system, and a joint Worcestershire response to this will be crucial. NHS Worcestershire is working on a new Medium Term Financial Strategy that plans for this scenario, and other more pessimistic projections, and a new Leadership Group involving the Chief Executives and Chairs from the other NHS Trusts has been established. A range of work areas are now being taken forward, including looking at shared services, a review of commitments and developments and other opportunities for efficiencies.

Worcester Walk-in Health Centre

The new Worcester Walk-in Health Centre opened to the public in the middle of August offering members of the public access to GPs 7 days per week between 8am and 8pm. The new facility is based in Farrier Street in central Worcester and is being run by Elgar Healthcare, which is a consortium of local GPs. Patients will be able to register with the Centre as their main GP but walk-in services are also available for people who can't necessarily always find time to attend their own GP practice.

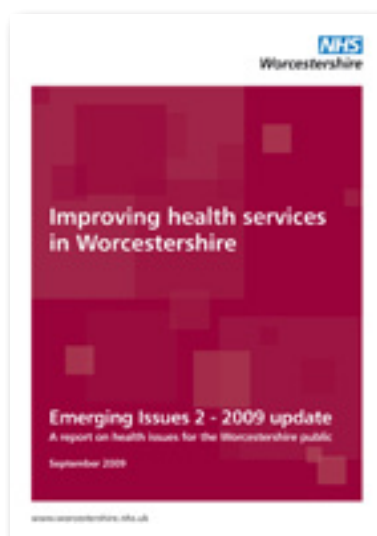


The Walk-in Centre was commissioned by NHS Worcestershire in response to the Government's requirement for better access to GP-led services at a convenient location and during extended opening hours. Improving access to primary care has been a key objective for NHS Worcestershire during the last 12 months and this new Centre makes a significant contribution to this agenda. Early usage figures showed an average of 30 patients per day using the Centre in August and this figure is anticipated to increase significantly, particularly when plans to target groups of the population that haven't traditionally accessed primary care services such as students and homeless people are implemented.

More details about the Worcester Walk-in Health Centre are available at www.worcesterwalkin.co.uk or by ringing 01905 879100.

Emerging Issues 2

NHS Worcestershire has published a second 'Emerging Issues' document. This is a follow-up to a similar publication last summer and is aimed at members and the public and stakeholders.



The document sets out to inform residents and partners about emerging health issues for the county and includes an update on the first Emerging Issues report, as well as setting out some of the new issues we are addressing.

The document is available on the internet ([click here](#)) and paper copies are available by emailing your address to rebecca.bourne@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Evesham Health Services project



The project looking at future health needs for the Evesham area is moving towards the end of its first phase. As part of this work staff and local residents are being asked for their views on the future of healthcare services for their area. An information leaflet inviting comments has been produced and widely distributed, with a view to the Steering Group overseeing the project making

a recommendation to the NHS Worcestershire Board as to a preferred option.

A similar project looking at future health needs for Kidderminster and the Wyre Forest area has also now started. The NHS Worcestershire Public health team are facilitating a detailed health needs assessment document that can then be analysed and various future commissioning options developed over the coming months.

For more information please contact michael.o'donnell@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Kidderminster Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC)

The 5 year agreement with Interhealth to operate Kidderminster ISTC expires at the end of January 2010 and this contract will not be renewed. The premises that are used for the ISTC are owned by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust and are leased to Interhealth. The Acute Trust have decided not to renew the lease arrangements. NHS Worcestershire is now reviewing its commissioning plans for orthopaedic services and will need to balance out the requirement to maintain the 18 week target, the preference to offer patients choice and the intention to review how many orthopaedic procedures need to be purchased to meet the needs of patient in Worcestershire.

ISTCs were established as part of a national initiative and have improved waiting times significantly as well as enhancing patient choice. More than 8,389 elective orthopaedic procedures have been undertaken at the Kidderminster ISTC since the start of the contract. NHS Worcestershire already commissions elective orthopaedic procedures and associated services from a range of other providers and will also have to make sure the 18 week referral to treatment target is still met. More details on the process for de-commissioning the ISTC and alternative providers already available for Worcestershire residents will be published in the near future.

For more details please email simon.hairsnape@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Swine Flu and Winter Planning

Swine Flu continued to impact on the County throughout the summer months. Towards the end of July three Antiviral Collection Points (ACPs) were opened, one at Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch. A further ACP was also opened in Pershore in the middle of August when demand peaked. These facilities were staffed by NHS Worcestershire staff and staff from the PCT Provider arm, taking them away from their normal duties. Over 4,500 patients were issued with antiviral medication from an ACP up until the end of August, although demand decreased throughout the month.



Planning is now continuing for a further increase in cases later in the autumn, and this has been aligned with the usual annual plans for seasonal flu and the winter period that would be progressed across the health economy at this time of year. These initial plans are being tested regularly, with the latest exercise being undertaken by the Strategic Health Authority in early September, and lessons from these exercises are being incorporated into revised planning.

Plans for the usual seasonal flu vaccinations are already in place and a Swine Flu Mass Vaccination Plan has been developed to outline how this will be delivered to the wider population in Worcestershire. National guidance will determine which groups of people are prioritised for the Swine Flu vaccine.

Appointment of a Medical Director and Improving Clinical Engagement

NHS Worcestershire has started to implement the plans to generally improve clinical influence across the organisation with an advertisement for a new Medical Director position being placed in the middle of August. This new post will also be charged with leading the primary care team and the development of a new Primary care Strategy, as well as being the Responsible Officer and ensuring that effective Clinical Governance of Primary Care is in place.

The closing date for applications to be received for the Medical Director post was 15th September and initial interviews will take place in the next few weeks. Other parts of the general initiative to improve clinical engagement include plans to replace the existing Professional Executive Committee (PEC) with a new Clinical Senate that will have a broader role and a wide membership of clinicians from across the health economy.

For more details please email richard.harling@worcestershire.nhs.uk

New Malvern Community Hospital



Construction work on the new Malvern Community Hospital continues to proceed as per the programme that will result in it opening to the public in the autumn of 2010. members of the project's Stakeholder Reference Board – that includes key partners such as local Councils, the League of Friends and staff from the existing hospital – visited the new site on 25th August.

The Site Manager from the main contractor Interserve was on hand to explain and highlight progress with the development, and to answer questions from interested members of the Stakeholder Board.

Members of the public and other partners can keep track of how work is progressing via the live webcam facility that can be accessed online at www.malverncommunityhospital.org.uk

Saving Carbon: Improving Health



NHS Worcestershire's Board has formally approved the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Strategy and signed up to the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge at the 'two star' level for this year, with an aim to work towards achievement of 'three star' within the next year. It has also been agreed that a Sustainable development Action plan will now be developed that outlines the necessary actions to meet these commitments and make an active contribution to carbon reduction in the county.

Initial progress has included setting energy reduction targets for existing buildings, installation of SMART meters that monitor energy usage, the introduction of new recycling schemes and a new waste disposal contract that guarantees 70% of

waste being diverted from landfill with a view to working towards 95%.

More details are available by emailing frances.howie@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Equality and Diversity Health Seminars

NHS Worcestershire (in partnership with the Mental Health Partnership Trust, and the Worcestershire Acute Trust) has arranged a series of equalities seminars across the county.

These events aimed to provide local communities, voluntary and community organisations, service users and residents the opportunity to engage with the Health Economy of Worcestershire in identifying potential equality related health issues. This will then result in the three Trusts working together with the communities to address these issues. Two seminars have already taken place in Worcester and Redditch and a third seminar is scheduled for Wednesday 30th September in Kidderminster



More details are available by contacting kulvinder.hira@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Annual Report



NHS Worcestershire's Annual Report for 2008/09 was published just before the Annual General Meeting on 13th July.

Click the link to access the full document or email communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk for a paper copy.

Infection Control Annual Report



The Infection Control Annual Report has been published and noted by the PCT Board. This document outlines activities and progress with tackling infection control over the last year and includes details of activity and the number of instances of healthcare associated infections in non acute settings.

Transforming Community Services Update

The work looking into the development of a Commissioning Strategy for Community Services and the future organisational shape of the PCT's provider arm is moving towards a conclusion and final report. The round of stakeholder engagement

has now been completed and feedback is being incorporated into the final work. A report is due to be taken to the NHS Worcestershire Board meeting in November.

Further information on the work is available by contacting Joanna.aleksic@mouchel.com

CPP Newsletter

Click on the image below to access.



Performance and finance update

- NHS Worcestershire remains on target to deliver the planned surplus of £4.692m for the 2009/2010 financial year
- Performance against the 4 hour accident and emergency target in Worcestershire continues to improve following a strong start to 2009/10, with performance well above the 98% target so far this year
- 18 weeks Referral to Treatment- All trusts have maintained their overall expected levels of achievement. During 2009/10 the principles of patient right to treatment within 18 weeks will be applied to all specialties for all providers we are closely monitoring this with all of our trusts.
- GP Extended hours - a total of 43 practices are now signed up to the extended hours service. This is already ahead of our agreed total for 2009/10.