

Stakeholder Brief

Special Edition

5 April 2010

Transforming Community Services - Update 4

Proposals for Transforming Community Services in Worcestershire have received an 'approval in principle' from the Strategic Health Authority.

The NHS Worcestershire Board had previously agreed to submit a proposal that outlined future management arrangements for services currently provided by the Primary Care Trust Provider arm. The submission outlined how some specialist nursing services would transfer to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. These are:

- Breast Screening Service
- COPD Service
- Diabetic Nursing Service
- Heart Failure Service
- TB Nursing Service
- Rheumatology Nursing Service (Wyre Forest)

All other services would move into a new organisation that would be created to also manage mental health services, with the existing Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust being dissolved. Provision was also made to further explore how community nursing and therapy services could work closer together with local GPs and Practice Based Commissioners.

Preparations are now underway to plan the work that will need to be undertaken to implement the proposals before April 2011. An important part of that work will be consultation and involvement work with staff, partners, stakeholders, patients and the public as the specific details of how the proposals could be implemented are developed.





The Strategic Health Authority now plan to work with the Department of Health to carry out a more detailed review of the proposals using the national assurance tests that were outlined in the initial guidance that was published at the end of January.

Proposals need to:

- Be needs and pathway driven;
- Provide more integration of services;
- Deliver improved quality and patient experience;
- Be affordable and reduce management costs;
- Help to manage demand effectively (eg reduce acute admissions and length of stay);
- Demonstrate that potential providers have a track record of leadership capability, governance and a culture to engage staff to lead service transformation.

Paul Bates, Chief Executive of NHS Worcestershire, was pleased at the approval in principle to proceed with the next stage of the work and said:

“ We are really grateful for the huge amount of feedback and involvement from staff and stakeholders. This is an important issue for Worcestershire and we are determined to make sure we get the right solutions.

The process of gathering this feedback through consultation and involvement will continue and I don't think any of us are under any illusions that there isn't still an enormous amount of work to do.

Most people that 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 achieve this. ”



Further briefings will be issued as information becomes available but to submit any comments or ask any specific questions please email communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk