

Stakeholder Brief

January 2011

White Paper changes to the NHS

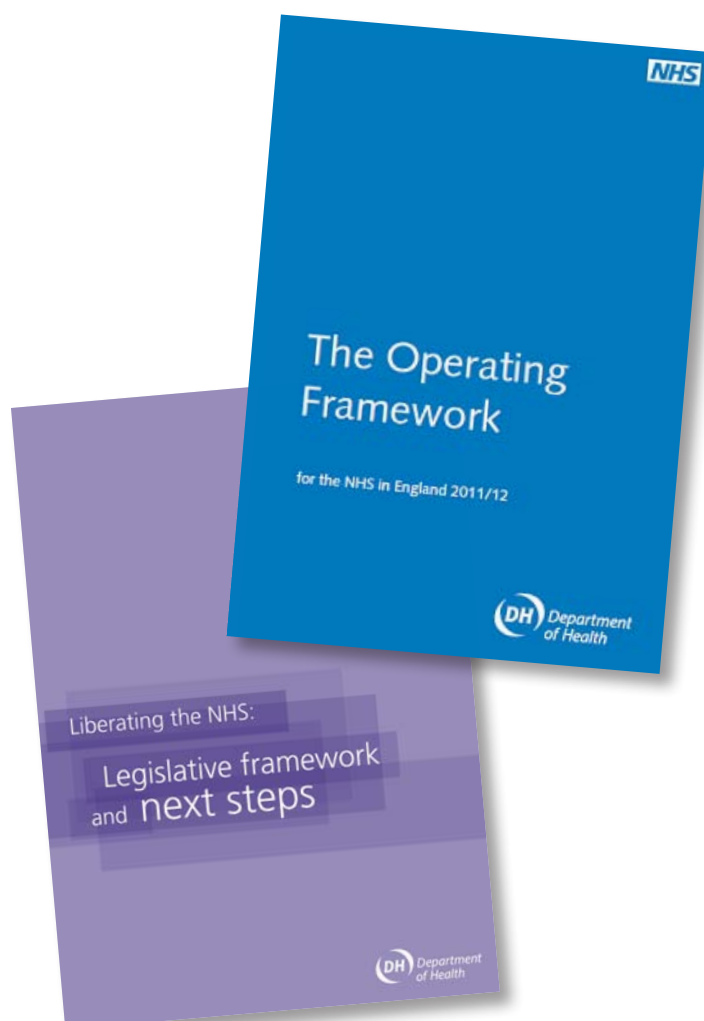
The pace of changes to the NHS has increased and the future direction has become clearer as the proposals unveiled in the NHS White Paper in the summer are confirmed. The government have recently published a '[Command Paper](#)' that follows on from the White Paper and subsequently introduced a '[Health and Social Care Bill](#)' to Parliament on 19th January. The 'Command Paper' details the responses to the consultation that subsequently took place and how the proposals will now be taken forward, starting with the Health Bill that includes the legal and statutory details of the changes.

The documents confirm the timetable for the transition to local GP Commissioning Consortia taking over responsibility for the commissioning of the majority of local health services. Proposals to reduce overall running costs of the NHS by a third are also confirmed, as are the arrangements for local authorities establishing Health and Wellbeing Boards who will now have an additional role in developing a 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy' for their area. In Worcestershire the Health and Wellbeing Board is being established in shadow form in April this year.

One of the other significant changes to the original proposals is outlined in more detail in the '[NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12](#)' and concerns more immediate changes to organisations to assist the transition process. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will increasingly be required to provide more support and capacity to GP Consortia and in order for this to happen effectively there is recognition that it will not be possible to maintain 151 PCTs across the country. By June 2011 PCTs will have to be working formally in cluster arrangements with a single Chief

Executive and a single Executive Team all serving the constituent Boards of the individual Boards that will remain in place until April 2013. The Strategic Health Authority is due to outline more detail shortly about the practicalities of putting these arrangements in place.

More information is available by contacting simon.trickett@worcestershire.nhs.uk



Development of GP Commissioning in Worcestershire

All of the three emerging GP Commissioning Consortia organisations in Worcestershire are making good progress. Work to date has very much focused on developing constitutions and ways of working, and in particular on undertaking elections to the key GP leader posts that will undertake roles on local Boards bringing together the GPs views in their area.

The role of NHS Worcestershire is very much to support this development process and resources will increasingly be directed towards GP commissioning. This will have particular implications for NHS Worcestershire staff and significant work is underway to develop a clear process for managing the Human Resources implications of this. The 'Command Paper' and the NHS Operating Framework both outline how some PCT staff will be assigned to GP Commissioning Consortia over the coming months and how other commissioning support functions that can be offered at either a county or a West Mercia cluster level need to be developed.

Wyre Forest and South Worcestershire GP Commissioning Consortia have also both now been accepted onto the National Pathfinder programme in recognition of the progress that already has been made. This will entail them sharing some of their learning with other parts of the country as they continue the process of setting up their new organisations. Redditch and Bromsgrove also hope to join the Pathfinder programme in the coming months.



More details are available from simon.hairsnape@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Review of Rehabilitation Services

Work to review rehabilitation services for Worcestershire patients has been ongoing for the last two years and a number of key principles have now been agreed to further shape the work on these services in the future. This work has involved clinicians from across the Worcestershire health economy as well as patients, the local authority and local GPs with an aim of reducing the time patients have to spend in hospital and providing as many services as possible close to patient's homes. In recent months lead GPs from the emerging South Worcestershire GP Commissioning Consortia have played a significant role in influencing what happens next.

One of the immediate consequences of the work has been a decision to de-commission the Aconbury Unit from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust from August this year. The work has looked in detail at

the current care pathway and has identified a range of community based services that could be offered in order to meet the needs of the predominantly older aged patients that are currently cared for in Aconbury. These include access to alternative beds in the Worcester area (some which have 24 hour nursing support), development of 24 and 48 hour intensive support packages that can be offered to patients in their own homes, spot purchasing of step down beds using the County Council Brokerage Team and further investment in the community-based Intermediate Care team. If this range of alternative services proves to be successful then similar principles will be applied to redesign some of the existing hospital-based rehabilitation services elsewhere in the county.

More information is available by contacting sandra.brennan@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Transforming Community Services

All of the necessary approvals have now been received for Worcestershire's Transforming Community Services proposals to proceed as planned. During the last month both the Co-operation and Competition Panel and the NHS Transaction Board have given their endorsement of the plan to transfer some community health services to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust and to create a new community and mental health trust that will take over the management of the majority of the existing community health services and all of the services currently provided by Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership Trust.

Key actions during the next few weeks are for the Appointments Commission and the Strategic Health Authority to finalise appointments to Chair, Non Executive Directors and Chief Executive roles for the new trust and for a final timescale to be agreed for when the trust will be established. Work has proceeded to date on the basis that this would be 1st April but ensuring that a focus remains on safe, high quality services during the changes and ensuring that the Board of the new trust is ready to assume full responsibility are the main priorities. A final decision will be taken in early February whether to proceed on 1st April or the alternative date of 1st July if more time is required.

More details are available by contacting simon.trickett@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Engagement events

Whilst the change itself has been agreed we are committed to ensuring users of the services affected, carers and other stakeholders have a say. We will be holding a number of events in February and March across the county and we would like you to participate:

- Wednesday 9th February: 10am to 12noon, Kidderminster Town Hall
- Thursday 17th March: 6pm to 8pm, Evesham Hospital: Training and Development Centre
- Thursday 24th March: 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club, Worcester.

To book a place at one of these events email communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk or for any more information please contact 01905 681609.



Stroke CQC report

The Care Quality Commission recently published a report into out of hospital stroke services across the country and ranked those in Worcestershire amongst the 'best performing' category. Significant work has been undertaken in this area over the last few years, led by the Care Planning Partnership and with significant involvement from local GPs and clinicians. The full report for Worcestershire can be accessed via the CQC website (<http://www.cqc.org.uk/stroke>) and is a useful endorsement of progress that has been made to date, as well as usefully

highlighting some of the other areas to develop.

More information is available from sandra.brennan@worcestershire.nhs.uk



Malvern opening

The new Malvern Community Hospital will be officially opened by HRH Princess Royal at an event on Wednesday 23rd February.

The new 24 bedded £17 million hospital has been open to patients since early December and the visit will involve a number of members of the local community who have been involved in the project. In particular Pat Merrick, former local councillor and Chair of the Malvern Hospital League of Friends, who campaigned for over 30 years for a new hospital will be part of the plans for the opening. The League of Friends made a significant contribution to funding equipment for the new hospital, particularly in the Minor Injuries Unit and this is being acknowledged with a plaque recognising Pat's contribution.



Quality, innovation, productivity and partnership (QIPP) planning



Responding to the challenge nationally of finding £15 - £20 billion worth of efficiency savings by 2014/15 in order to keep up with rising costs and increased demand has been a key focus of planning work in the NHS during the last 18 months. QIPP basically stands for the principles of increasing quality and giving better value to the taxpayer by using resources more efficiently.

In Worcestershire detailed work has been undertaken on this and will continue into 2011 as one of the key legacies that the PCT will leave. One of the key roles of NHS Worcestershire this year

will be to work with the provider trusts and the emerging GP Commissioning Consortia to agree QIPP plans for the health economy that outline where and how efficiency savings can be made. A key theme of this is redirecting resources into keeping people out of hospital and providing support and services closer to patient's homes and this will lead to changes to capacity of the various services. The provider trusts will also have their own 'Cost Improvement Programmes' that require them to plan for 4% efficiencies each year and the QIPP plan will have to bring all of this information together in one place to provide an integrated picture for the county. NHS Worcestershire has previously referred to the need to save £60 million over the next three years and when this is added to the 4% year on year efficiency targets for the providers a total figure of £167 million across the NHS in Worcestershire will have to be identified through the QIPP planning.

More detail on QIPP plans and the implications for Worcestershire and the West Mercia cluster of PCTs are available from michael.o'donnell@worcestershire.nhs.uk

Managing demand over the winter period

Significant preparatory work went into managing local health services over the winter period and the bad weather over Christmas and New Year added additional pressure to the health and social care system. Close co-operation between NHS Worcestershire, the County Council, GPs and the

provider trusts were an important feature of the work and a full review will be undertaken to ensure any lessons for the future are learnt.

More information on winter capacity planning is available from sandra.brennan@worcestershire.nhs.uk

2011/12 budget setting

The process to agree final budgets for 2011/12 is now well underway and financial allocations for Primary Care Trusts were confirmed in the recent NHS Operating Framework. The headline uplift for NHS Worcestershire was 3.0% (0.8% of which can only be spent non-recurrently on things that don't incur an ongoing annual commitment and cost). The underlying 2.2% uplift equates to £18 million of extra funding and this figure is approximately £1 million more than had been anticipated in the previous financial planning for 2011/12. Another key feature of the allocations for 2011/12 was £6.5 million to support local social care for the benefit of health services. Discussions are now underway with the County Council to agree how to spend this money in Worcestershire over the next 12 months.

More information is available from brian.hanford@worcestershire.nhs.uk



Dementia strategy update

The consultation on the draft Dementia Strategy for Worcestershire continues up until 31st January. The consultation process has included a series of ten public meetings across the county that have been taking place in December and January and some targeted sessions and workshops for some of the groups traditionally regarded as harder to reach.

More details are available on the NHS Worcestershire website at <http://www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations/dementia-strategy.aspx>



GP premises update

The NHS Worcestershire Board has approved a business case for the provision of new premises for Dr McGregor and partners in Church Hill, Redditch. The new surgery will be an integral part of a wider redevelopment and regeneration of the Church Hill area that is being led by Redditch Borough Council and also includes residential and retail developments. Subject to planning and legal agreements the new premises would be ready for use in September 2012.

More details on the Church Hill scheme and progress with other GP premises developments are available from jonathan.leach@worcestershire.nhs.uk



More dental capacity for the north of the county

Further dental capacity is in the process of being let, with expressions of interest being invited from dentists in the localities of Malvern, Redditch, Stourport and Urban North Worcestershire. In addition a full external tender will shortly be underway for Droitwich, caused by an existing dental provider having terminated his contract.

This will further increase dental capacity within Worcestershire. We have also extended our successful Advan campaign to make patients aware of the availability of NHS dentistry, and will be co-ordinating this activity with the letting of the additional capacity

Finance update

- NHS Worcestershire has changed the planned surplus for 2010/11 from £1 million to £3 million. This then becomes available to carry forward into the new financial year to support services during 2011/12.
- Data received up until month 8 of the year suggests an overall overspend of £3.8 million on acute healthcare. This is mainly with out of county providers with the Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust contract being broadly on target.

Contracts with the independent sector also show a £2.945 million overspend up to month 8 indicating the increased take-up of patient choice in the county and patients choosing to go to places such as BMI Droitwich and Spire Southbank for their NHS funded care. The overall Primary Care budget (excluding Dentistry) shows a £496,000 underspend and the Dentistry budgets show an underspend of £1 million, reflecting the difficulty in recent months in increasing take-up in the available NHS Dentistry capacity across the county.

For more information on any of the items in this brief please contact Simon Trickett on 01905 733731 or email simon.trickett@worcestershire.nhs.uk