



East Staffordshire CCG Briefing

December 2016

Welcome to the second of our quarterly briefings which we hope will give you an update on some of the issues that we at East Staffordshire CCG are focusing on at the moment.

In this briefing we cover:

- Together We're Better / Sustainability and Transformation Plan
- Commissioning and Contracting for the Next Two Years
- Our Future Local GP Services
- Improving Lives
- Staffordshire Better Care Fund
- For Most It's Close

Together We're Better / Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Work on the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP) continues with our health and care partners from across the county. The main focus of effort is to support patients in their homes, improve prevention, increase self-management and reduce admissions. If it sounds familiar, then it is, as that is exactly the thrust of our Improving Lives programme with Virgin Care.

In addition, General Practice is being encouraged to cluster into served populations of 30-50,000 patients which again is similar to where we have been going in East Staffordshire. So, in many ways in East Staffordshire we are ahead of the game, and we're on track to deliver our financial plan for 2016/17.

A series of Conversation events are being held across the county, organised by Healthwatch Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, to share information and engage the public in the development of the ideas. The local event is on 7th December from 4pm to 7.30pm at the Burton Town Hall. Charles Pidsley (Chair) and Tony Bruce (Accountable Officer) together with other STP partners will be there. Places can be booked via the Healthwatch Staffordshire website:
<http://healthwatchstaffordshire.co.uk/>.

The draft Staffordshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan will be published on 15th December. By that date Healthwatch will have held all ten Conversation Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent events and their findings, along with a compilation of the Frequently Asked Questions from the events, will be available.



Commissioning and Contracting for 2017/18 and 2018/19

We are very much focused on finalising what services we want to commission and what contracts we want to put in place, not only for next year, but also for 2018/19. We need to have all this in place before Christmas, to meet NHS England's deadline.

This involves us working closely with our colleagues in the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) to make sure our commissioning and contracting takes forward the STP and is consistent wherever possible and appropriate, with our partner CCGs. The South Staffordshire group of CCGs are leading on this work to produce a single plan.

We also need to take into account the agreed greater collaborative working between Burton and Derby Hospitals. We are collaborating with Southern Derbyshire CCG in particular, to align our commissioning to support and enable the two hospital Trusts to collaborate and gain the quality, performance and financial benefits available through consistent and streamlined pathways of care.

Our future local GP services

Our work with local GPs Practices to develop the Local Delivery Plan for sustainable primary care medical services continues to progress well.

The CCG has been considering whether it should apply to become a level 3 Delegated Commissioner of Primary Care medical services from 1 April 2017.

We are doing a lot of research into the benefits and issues and are talking with our GPs about what this would mean. If we do decide to apply, the CCG would undertake a range of commissioning and contracting functions on a delegated basis. The statutory responsibility and accountability would continue to rest with NHS England.

Being a delegated commissioner would mean that, where there is scope to make local decisions within the commissioning of primary care medical services, then those decisions would be made locally, in a way which is aligned to our CCG's overall priorities for health and healthcare improvement. However, at the current time the flexibilities are expected to be limited contractually and financially; and delegation brings potential risks and resourcing issues. These issues are being assessed and will inform our final decision.

If we do decide to go ahead, then we would set up a new Primary Care Commissioning Committee to make local decisions and the majority of people on that Committee would be non-GPs in order to manage of any potential conflicts of interests.



Improving Lives

In November, Virgin Care relocated the GP Out of Hours service to Queen's Hospital, Burton, as part of the integration of urgent and emergency services.

Virgin Care continue to make progress in implementing their two year operational plan for the transformation of local services, following the transfer of services.

A number of contractual claims have been made by Virgin Care for variations to the contract. These are being managed through the prescribed contract management and dispute resolution processes.

Staffordshire Better Care Fund

Following the national determination that CCGs were not required to transfer £15million to 'protect social care', Staffordshire County Council (SCC) is in the process of addressing the shortfall in its budget.

It has now been agreed that, within the Better Care Fund, Staffordshire County Council and all CCGs will work together to assess and seek to mitigate the negative impact for citizens and partner public service agencies of the spending reductions that the Council will be making, to seek to achieve benefits together.

Detailed work is being undertaken to understand the impact of the spending reductions SCC is making on patients, carers, communities and on the demand for NHS-funded and NHS-provided services.

For Most It's Close

Over the winter months we will be reminding East Staffordshire residents that there are often occasions when pharmacists can help them with advice and care, rather than needing a visit to their GPs or A&E. We're calling this 'For Most It's Close'.

We will be distributing leaflets about this across the region (a sample is attached) and the messaging will also be used on some car park tickets in central Burton and in targeted Facebook advertising over the winter, so please look out for this and help us reduce unnecessary visits to GPs and A&E.

Our next quarterly CCG briefing will be issued in March 2017. If you have any comments or if there are any items you would like to see covered, please contact deborah.neal1@nhs.net or call 07710 916 043.