

Stakeholder Briefing No 9 – 23 September 2016

Re-shaping Community Health Services in South Devon and Torbay

Consultation runs until 23 November 2016

This e-mail briefing keeps recipients up to date during consultation, highlighting and responding to issues raised. It also signposts where more information has been published which supports the consultation. People can sign up to receive it by emailing sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net

Public meetings

Five public meetings have been held since the last briefing in Chudleigh, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, which local MP Mel Stride attended.

Most people attending seem to recognise the challenges of meeting future demands for services. There is however scepticism over the ability to deliver some aspects of the new model of care and passionate opposition in both Ashburton and Buckfastleigh to the closure of the local community hospital. Recurring concerns raised relate to NHS and social care funding; a lack of care and nursing home beds; the need to be assured of quality standards in homes run by the independent sector; a drift to what some people see as privatisation; and inadequate support for the frail elderly who can be isolated and vulnerable. People are also concerned about the provision of end of life care; pressures on GPs; recruitment issues; and are not convinced that care in the community can replace bed based care. Some people argue for expanding the number of beds at Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital rather than closing it, with some believing that the cost of PFI hospitals at Newton Abbot and Dawlish has a negative impact on the other community hospitals.

The CCG understands the strength of feeling that exists in support of local community hospitals. Retaining these hospitals however does not remove the need to find funding to invest in community and primary care services so patient needs can be met. There are currently more than 1.7million GP consultations and almost 400,000 episodes of care provided by community nursing and therapy services and the growing demand for these services needs to be met. Along with evidence showing that many patients can be better cared for out of hospital, the CCG's proposal is to reduce investment in beds in community hospitals, which in total across South Devon and Torbay, sees just over 3,000 admissions, and instead invest in alternative services which it believes will deliver better care to many more people.

The CCG also recognises public transport problems in rural areas. The proposed changes should reduce the need for travel for most people as a result of more care at home, more clinics being run in clinical hubs rather than Torbay Hospital and community clinics being provided in local health and wellbeing centres. The CCG acknowledges that where someone needs a community hospital bed, they may have to travel further but during the meetings we have also heard about the fantastic work that the local voluntary sector transport groups do. The lack of rural transport is a problem that exists now and we need to work together to develop possible solutions.

Many people believe that the consultation is not real and that irrespective of public feeling, the proposals will be implemented. The CCG's priority is to find a way of meeting future need in an affordable and sustainable way. It has published for consultation the way in which it thinks it can best deliver this objective. But it wants to hear alternative ideas on how it can meet future health

needs within the budget available. The CCG will explore all ideas suggested through the consultation, whether they be variations on the current proposals or a new approach, before any final decision is made.

Format of public meetings

Our aim is to hear from as many people as possible at these meetings. We recognise that not everyone likes to stand up in a crowded room to ask questions or make comments. So we have adopted a format that enables people to hear the proposals and their likely impact on their local area; discuss in groups different elements of the proposals; and then ask questions of a panel which includes senior representatives of the CCG and Trust, as well as a local GP. In this way, the views of everyone attending can be noted so that they can inform the independent Healthwatch feedback report which will be published before any final decisions are made next year.

Upcoming public meetings

Despite holding three meetings in Ashburton, there was not enough room at the evening event for everyone who wanted to attend. We are sorry that this was the case and that some people were disappointed and not able to participate. A further meeting is being organised and those who were turned away will be advised directly of the date and given priority.

Details of future public meetings are available on our website (see below) and the coming week sees three meetings in Paignton's Sacred Heart Church on 28 September (9am, 4pm and 7pm) and a 6.30pm meeting at Brixham's Scala Hall on 29 September.

Community meetings

In addition to the public meetings, almost 30 groups have invited us to come to their community based groups to explain our proposals and to answer questions. If you want us to attend a group in which you are involved get in touch via the methods listed at the end of this briefing.

Devon Scrutiny Committee

This week, the CCG updated the committee on the consultation timetable and process and in response to questions confirmed that proceeds from the sale of any property would be used by the Trust to improve health care facilities across South Devon and Torbay; and that £5.1 million anticipated revenue savings from the process would be re-invested in community services.

More information

At different meetings requests for information have arisen, much of which is on our website www.southdevonandtorbayccg.nhs.uk/community-health-services). More information can be sought, questions asked, invitations to attend community meetings submitted or paper copies requested by:

- Emailing sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net
- Writing to South Devon and Torbay CCG, Pomona House, Torquay, TQ2 7FF
- Calling 01803 652511 office hours (voicemail messaging overnight/weekends).

Submitting your views

The feedback questionnaire can be accessed via the CCG or Trust website or via www.communityconsultation.co.uk. The consultation closes on 23 November and the outcome is likely to be considered by the CCG's Governing Body at a meeting in public in January/February 2017.