

# together for a healthier future.

## Key Messages

*together for a healthier future* programme board

Thursday 4 December 2014

The *together for a healthier future* programme board is continuing its work on planning the implementation of the five year plan for the North Cumbria local health economy.

Discussions at the board, which comprises senior representatives from across the local NHS and Cumbria County Council, included the following:

### **Revised governance structure**

In recent weeks the board has been focusing on the development of a revised governance structure. This has now been agreed and will support the board through the further development and implementation of the five year plan.

Two key groups are the planning, finance and delivery group and the clinical leadership group. There are also a number of steering and task and finish groups covering various workstreams such as communications and engagement, women and children, in-hospital services, out of hospital services and finance. In addition, a range of enabling functions such as IM&T, workforce change and organisational development and transport will be in place to support the work of the steering groups.

Updated terms of reference have been developed for each of the groups.

### **Strengthening of communications and engagement**

Following a decision by the board at its November meeting that there was a need to strengthen communications and engagement relating to the five year plan, there was a lengthy discussion at the December meeting about how this should happen.

It is clear from comments still being made by NHS staff, members of the public and other key stakeholders that much more communication is needed about the services to be provided by the redeveloped West Cumberland Hospital and about the out of hospital services which are being developed to support people in their own communities.

It was agreed that as a priority there needs to be consideration of how to strengthen internal communications within NHS organisations to build on efforts already in place.

The board agreed that there needs to be increased proactivity with the media about both in hospital and out of hospital services. This is in addition to the regular newspaper supplements that are now being produced by the local NHS.

It was also agreed that there needs to be greater efforts to make sure that local people and stakeholders have the opportunity to have their voices heard as the development and implementation of the five year plan continues.

As part of the strengthening of communications and engagement, North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust has commissioned Healthwatch to carry out a series of public workshops and to host and evaluate an online survey. These are happening to seek views on the trust's thinking about a number of patient pathways as outlined in its recent options appraisals report.

Also, Healthwatch is bringing together a West Cumbria Community Forum which will include representatives from the local councils, community and voluntary sector and patient groups. The purpose is to provide another opportunity to hear from key local groups and also to explain more about the five year plan.

Regular meetings are taking place with local councillors and it was agreed that these should continue and that further opportunities for communicating with and engaging the local authorities should be explored.

A revised communications and engagement plan is being prepared with a deadline of end of January 2015. This will include information about how communications and engagement activities can be measured.

### **Independent reviews**

The board is now awaiting the outcome of two important reviews by external independent experts which took place in November one by the Northern Clinical Senate and the other by representatives from the Royal Colleges of midwives, obstetricians and gynaecologists and paediatricians.

The Northern Clinical Senate, which is hosted by NHS England, reviewed some of the high risk clinical pathways where change may be proposed. The Senate is hosted by NHS comprises independent senior clinicians who are experts in their own fields and have experience or understanding of the clinical issues under consideration. Their report is expected by the end of the year.

The independent review by the Royal Colleges, the professional bodies for clinicians working in maternity and related services was commissioned jointly by NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS North Lancashire CCG in discussion with NHS England. Their remit was to help identify the best way to arrange maternity services across Cumbria given the challenges faced by the local NHS. A team of highly experienced experts spent three days meeting a wide range of people, the majority of whom were clinical staff working in maternity and related services such as paediatrics, surgery, anaesthetics and intensive care.

In addition they met key people from both North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust, NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group and North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, local GPs, members of the West Cumberland Hospital campaign group and the Millom Action Group, local councillors, colleagues from Healthwatch and lay members of the maternity services liaison committee.

A report from the maternity review team is expected early in 2015.

**Note to staff**

A summary leaflet of the interim five year plan has been shared across North Cumbria and is available at [www.cumbriaccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/engagement/together-for-a-healthier-future/together-for-a-healthier-future-summary.pdf](http://www.cumbriaccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/engagement/together-for-a-healthier-future/together-for-a-healthier-future-summary.pdf)

Further information about North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust's options appraisals paper is available at: [www.ncuh.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/embargoed-draft-clinical-options-appraisal.pdf](http://www.ncuh.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/embargoed-draft-clinical-options-appraisal.pdf)