

Key headlines from meeting of the North Cumbria Programme Board on 8 May 2014

A significant amount of activity has taken place over the past month which will help inform the five year plan for Cumbria.

This has included:

- Engagement with the public, local councils and the community and voluntary sector. This involves implementing a communications and engagement plan which includes 20 focus groups organised by an independent research company, around 12 roadshows in towns and villages organised with Healthwatch Cumbria and two large events for the community and voluntary sector. In addition, meetings are taking place with district and parish councils and with county councillors. Each NHS organisation is responsible for ensuring that its staff are aware of the development of the five year plan, the context for this and that they have the opportunity to comment.
- The Price Waterhouse Cooper intensive planning support team is now in place and is working with all health organisations across North Cumbria. Their work includes:
 - bringing together a 'single version of the truth' to provide a consistent understanding of the financial and other issues facing each of the local health organisations
 - organising two Care Design Groups, involving health and care professionals and senior managers from across all NHS organisations and the County Council as well as patient representatives to discuss possible new models of care
 - organising a bed audit in acute and community hospitals, to provide a better understanding of bed usage.
- Organising three additional clinical workshops through Cumbria Learning and Improvement Collaborative (CLIC) to take place later in the month to consider how to achieve safe and sustainable services going forward, and a fourth to discuss the development of primary care communities which will result in much greater integration across organisations and improved access to local urgent care services.
- Publicity about the development of the five year plan and widespread sharing of briefing information about the challenges facing the health and care economy and the work of the Programme Board, under the branding 'Together for a healthier future'.

The plan needs to be submitted to NHS England by 20 June 2014 but consideration is now being given to how the draft plan could be shared with clinicians, managers and patient representatives who have been involved in the Care Design Groups and with members of partner organisations before then to seek further views.