

together for a healthier future.

Key messages from meeting of the *together for a healthier future* programme board on 5 February 2015

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, at its meeting on 5 February 2015, which comprises senior representatives from across the local NHS, Cumbria County Council and Healthwatch Cumbria, included the following:

Driving forward the programme

At the January meeting of the programme board it was agreed that to support work towards implementation there needed to be further discussions by board members around the parameters of the *together for a healthier future* programme, priorities for the coming year and agreement over some high level milestones. The aim was to achieve a shared and single understanding of where the board needs to focus its attention and effort in the coming months.

Following the meeting a small group of board members spent a morning discussing working through this and at the February meeting it was the main agenda item. There was general agreement that the core business of the programme should be on the initiatives and transformational change that can only be done together, where the collective effort of all organisations is a prerequisite for success.

It was agreed that the board should look at a couple of service areas or pathways where integrated working is already progressing well and is key to improving outcomes for patients and using our resources more efficiently as a system. The board agreed as part of this work that they would also look to the localities where integrated service development is progressing well to ensure lessons are learnt and experience and expertise shared across North Cumbria.

It was agreed that the programme board should submit an application to express an interest in setting up 'vanguard sites' for some of the new care models which follow the national planning guidance 'The Forward View into Action' which was published in December 2014.

This guidance referred to four models:

- Multispecialty community providers (MCPs)
- Integrated primary and acute care systems (PACS)

- Additional approaches to creating smaller, viable hospitals
- Models of enhanced health in care homes.

Meanwhile discussions continue with CLIC (Cumbria Learning and Improvement Collaborative) to explore how OD activity across organisational boundaries can support the implementation of change resulting from *together for a healthier future* in the north and Better Care Together in the south. The aim would be to coordinate a common approach through CLIC.

Scoping transport issues

The issue of transport is well recognised by the programme board. This ranges from ambulances responding to life threatening emergencies, to patient transfers in between West Cumberland Hospital and Cumberland Infirmary, to the difficulties experienced by members of the public who have to rely on public transport to attend hospital appointments.

As such a meeting took place on 9 February involving a range of partners to begin scoping the transport issues that need to be addressed going forward as well as the different types of transport that are currently being used across organisations, including the county council. It was agreed to focus on two main areas:

- the emergency transport needs to accommodate safe and quick transfers for people who need to travel for specialist emergency care and any innovative approaches that have been used in other countries where geography is an issue
- the planned journeys and in particular taking into account changing needs as new models of integrated care in community settings are introduced.

High risk pathways

Following support and advice from the Northern Clinical Senate work has progressed on two high risk clinical pathways (upper gastrointestinal bleeds and cardiac) which could result in around five very poorly patients a week being transferred from West Cumberland Hospital to Cumberland Infirmary for treatment.

Discussions have started with the Cumbria County Council Health Scrutiny Committee to determine whether these changes would represent a significant variation in services, thereby requiring formal public consultation.

Work continues with the Senate on pathways for a small number of patients with respiratory problems, stroke and for people who are really very poorly when they are admitted to hospital.

Note

A summary leaflet of the interim five year plan has been shared across North Cumbria and is available at <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: <http://www.ncuh.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/embargoed-draft-clinical-options-appraisal.pdf>