

February 2013

**HEALTHIER TOGETHER PROGRAMME (SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS ACUTE SERVICES REVIEW)
PROGRESS REPORT FOR ALL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Boards of partner organisations with an update on progress against all aspects of the programme since the last report in January 2013.

2. Structure of the programme going forward

At their meeting on 13th February 2013 the Programme Board agreed that the next phase of the Healthier Together work would be taken forward locally by the CCGs in the north, middle and south of the south east midlands.

This is because CCGs are well placed, given their clinical expertise and knowledge of local services, patient experiences and community views to ensure that recommendations from the programme's clinical and patient-led working groups are translated into local plans which meet the needs of their population. CCGs will primarily focus on local issues and continue to work together where specialist services, such as stroke, cancer and vascular services, are likely to achieve better health outcomes for patients when provided on a bigger scale.

The next step is for each CCG to work with its local health service providers, patients and partners to develop firm proposals and to start the process of public consultation and implementation. The planning starts immediately and consultation, depending on the needs of each health community, is likely to start later this year.

Arrangements will be put in place locally to support this work going forward. All of the work that has already been undertaken will be transitional to these new arrangements by 31st March 2013.

3. Update on Commissioner Work Plan

The draft concordat had been ratified by the boards of Corby, Milton Keynes and Nene CCGs. The concordat will be helpful in supporting development of services for the 1.6million population across the south east midlands. A legal review of the wording of the concordat will be sought to ensure that it is still appropriate in the light of how the programme will now be taken forward.

Work continues on the development of the out of hospital care strategies. First drafts have been received from Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Luton CCGs. Additional work is still required to strengthen the quantification of the strategies in terms of activity and financial changes and the implementation timetable. External support will continue to be provided to ensure that the strategies can be finalised by the end of March 2013.

4. Clinical work plan

A second clinical summit took place in Northamptonshire on 30th January 2013 and was attended by over 100 individuals. Plans are being developed by Nene and Corby CCGs as to how this work will be taken forward locally.

The Clinical Working Group reports and executive summaries have been completed and are scheduled for review and sign off by the Clinical Senate on 8th March 2013. An overarching Clinical Senate Report has been written. This is also scheduled for review and sign off at the meeting on 8th March.

More discussion is required to agree how services for the 1.6million population, which might require only one or two sites within SEM, should be taken forward in the light of the new direction for the programme going forward.

5. Communications and Engagement

Communications

There was local and regional media interest in the announcement of the programme board decision that the next phase of transforming health services in the South East Midlands will be led by the five Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Media activity included an interview with Dr Peter Wilczynski, chair designate of Corby CCG, on BBC Radio Northampton's breakfast show, a BBC Look East interview with Dr Paul Hassan, chair designate of Bedfordshire CCG and SRO for Healthier Together, together with press coverage by local titles in Bedford, Milton Keynes and Northampton.

Healthier Together's communications team will continue to field all media enquiries about the programme until the end of March, liaising closely with communications colleagues from NHS partner organisations.

During this period of transition the focus will be on developing continuity arrangements covering a number of communications issues – including the future of the programme's dedicated website and social media channels.

Engagement

Representatives from 30 third sector and community organisations from across the South East Midlands attended a Long Term Conditions event organised by Healthier Together in Milton Keynes at the end of January.

The event was chaired by Steve Lowden, independent chair of Healthier Together's Patient and Public Participation Group, and comprised workshops and presentations given by Dr Monica Alabi, chair of the LTC Clinical Working Group, Sally Furniss, a specialist respiratory care nurse at Northampton General Hospital, Dale Turland-Ord, a community matron based in Bedford, and Nick Morrish, consultant diabetologist at Bedford Hospital.

Feedback from attendees identified pockets of excellent practice in the SEM where innovative procedures were delivering improved patient outcomes. However, there was a need to adopt a more comprehensive, shared approach to establishing LTC care pathways together with a need to expand knowledge of the full range of referral opportunities available.

Feedback has now been collated from an engagement exercise focused on gathering information from service users of the Carers in Bedfordshire organisation. Over 40 attendees at three carers' cafes were interviewed about their views on the Case for Change, emerging themes for potential reconfiguration and their wider experiences of NHS services in the area. The activity report will be shared with carers' organisations, CCGs and HT stakeholders to support the next phase of the programme.

Feedback from the first focus groups run as part of the young person peer research project in Northamptonshire has been received. 20 Young people were involved across the two groups which took place in Bishop Stopford School Council and Children in Care Forum. The project has been successful in engaging young people as part of the programme whilst empowering the ownership of these conversations within their own peer group.

Engagement with community groups across the areas has continued, including a ladies group, Probus Club and pensioners' forum.

A comprehensive report of Healthier Together's engagement activities since the programme's launch last February is being compiled as part of the information bank that will support CCGs as they take the process forward.

6. Recommendations

The Board is asked to note progress to date and feedback any queries through their Programme Board representative.