

## **Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire**

### **Stakeholder Brief – May 2014**

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) exists to independently advise on the governance, structure and progress of large scale public sector projects and it has been working closely with the reconfiguration project in Worcestershire. OGC has undertaken a series of reviews and undertook the last Health Gateway Review at the end of April 2014. The previous Gateway Review took place in mid December 2013 and the most recent exercise found that the programme has made progress in a number of areas:

- the recommendations from the Independent Clinical Review Panel (ICRP) have been published, agreed and accepted by the Boards and Governing Bodies of the commissioning and provider organisations.
- an independent review of the governance has been carried out and revised governance arrangements put in place. This has included establishment of an Executive Group, revised Programme Board membership with an independent chair and joint senior responsible officer (SRO) ownership by the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs.)
- recruitment of additional Programme Team resource, supplemented with expertise from PwC, Mott MacDonald and others for specialist tasks.
- there are generally strengthened working relationships across the organisations involved.

#### **Clinical Sub-groups**

##### **Emergency Care**

The group has now met on five occasions; progress has been a little slow due to the need to work through the specific detail of the services available 'beyond the front door' of the proposed 'networked emergency centre'. There have subsequently been some further conversations with the Independent Clinical Review Panel (ICRP) Chair who has clarified the view that there would need to be an A&E consultant presence at the proposed emergency centre at the Alexandra Hospital. The next two meetings of the emergency care sub-group should see some faster progress and agreement on the details of the proposed emergency service models for Redditch.

##### **Planned Care**

Following presentation of the draft service specification at the beginning of May, the members of the task and finish group asked the Hospital Trust to bring back further information relating to activity modelling and expansion of the patient benefit narrative for inclusion in the submission for sign off by the clinical sub-committee. The plans shared in November with the ICRP have changed very little. Gynaecological and breast services are still under review. It is proposed and accepted by the clinical task and finish group that the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch will be a centre of excellence for elective orthopaedic surgery accessible to the whole population of Worcestershire and would be recommended for inclusion in the public consultation in Autumn 2014.

##### **Women and Children**

Of the three clinical task and finish groups the most progress has been made by this group. The service specification for the Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU) has been accepted by members and activity modelling is starting to be looked at based on activity of the current configuration of services, supported by the ambulance service; the Maternity Day Assessment Unit (DAU) was recently presented and is accepted in principle; further information and detail has been requested which will be fed into the next meeting of the group in late May. Three working groups were established to look at: joint working for provision of ante- and post-natal care at the Alexandra Hospital by other local providers; pathways and protocols for transport and/or transfer of patients across Worcestershire and from outside the county is being worked through by members of the Hospital Trust, West Midlands Ambulance Service and a member of the Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG; and Enhanced Hospital at Home to ensure early discharge of patients to receive care closer to or at home.

The Clinical Sub-Committee is due to meet in early June to determine whether the work of the clinical task and finish groups is complete in order to sign off the modified option 1 models. Prior to this, review of the draft service specifications will be undertaken with reference back to the Chair of the ICRP, Mr Nigel Beasley (surgeon) if required. The outcome of these two important meetings will determine the next steps to be taken in order to begin further modelling development. The output of the clinical work will inform the Finance Sub-Committee activity scheduled for end May/June.

A copy of the final ICRP report published in January 2014 can be found at: [www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk)

### **Health Equality Impact Assessment**

Mott MacDonald held a health equalities impact workshop on May 14 at Redditch Town Hall, where representatives from voluntary and community groups from across Worcestershire had an opportunity to express their views on how the proposed changes would affect the people they work with and represent. Twenty five people attended the workshop and additional interviews will now take place with people who weren't able to attend on the day. The Health Equality Impact Assessment report is due later this summer and will form part of the public consultation. It will then be refined following feedback obtained during the consultation process.

### **Assurance**

NHS England has a role in overseeing reconfiguration proposals across the country and is due to assure the work which has been done as part of the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire programme at a strategic sense check meeting on May 16

There is also a further NHS England assurance checkpoint scheduled to take place in July before the start of the public consultation. At the strategic sense check in May, the panel will look at the work completed around capacity and planning patient flows and the panel in July will focus on to what extent the programme has met the four national reconfiguration tests in order for it to proceed to public consultation. The four tests are:

- 1) Clarity about the clinical evidence base underpinning the proposals
- 2) Support of GP commissioners
- 3) Promote patient choice
- 4) Engagement with the public, patients and local authorities

### **Update on Public Consultation**

We are currently working towards and planning for a public consultation starting in September 2014, however this is dependent on clear clinical and financial models being agreed and the outcome of the NHS England assurance process.

During the consultation we want to talk to people at local roadshows and events and to attend as many meetings hosted by local groups and organisations as possible. If you would like us to attend a meeting which you are involved with please contact [sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk) and once we know the dates of the consultation we will contact you to see if we can find a suitable date to meet with you. We would also like to send you articles for any magazines you publish. If you have any suitable magazines please e-mail the details to [sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk)

The latest information about the programme is available on our website at: [www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk)

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive this update or if you no longer wish to receive it please e-mail [sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.makin@ardencsu.nhs.uk)