

## **Stakeholder Briefing No 8 – 16 September 2016**

### **Re-shaping Community Health Services in South Devon and Torbay**

**Consultation runs until 23 November 2016**

This e-mail briefing keeps recipients up to date during consultation, highlighting and responding to issues raised. It also signposts where more information has been published which supports the consultation. People can sign up to receive it by emailing [sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net](mailto:sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net)

#### **Public meetings**

The first four public meetings, in Bovey Tracey and Dartmouth, attracted hundreds of people. A round table format followed by questions to a panel proved an effective way of enabling everyone at the meeting to have their say on the different aspects of the care model and to ask questions on the issues of most concern to them. Judging by the attendance and comments made, both the format of the meetings and the holding of them at different times seemed to work well.

#### **Bovey Tracey**

There were impassioned pleas to maintain the local hospital. If however it was closed following consultation, those attending wanted proceeds from any sale to be returned to the town. A commitment was made to listen to any alternative uses for the building should the hospital close. The meeting was told that it would take an estimated £1.5m investment to bring the hospital up to modern day standards for a health and care facility. Concerns were raised around the ability to recruit sufficient staff to deliver the new model of care, the need for more funding for intermediate care and the lack of local care and nursing home beds for when people needed them. The idea of a health and wellbeing centre which included local GPs was well received.

#### **Dartmouth**

Many people were concerned that Dartmouth Hospital could close. However, there was support for some initial work taking place jointly between the Trust and the GP practice to plan, subject to the consultation outcome, the possible relocation of community services and the GP practice to create a health and wellbeing centre within the existing [Riverview care home](#). Discussions are continuing with its owners. This could include the provision of intermediate care beds; the expansion of the GP-led minor injuries service, community clinics and a base for volunteers. The meeting heard that some £2.5m would be needed to bring the hospital up to modern day standards for a health and care facility but that such investment would not resolve current access and parking issues. Some concerns were raised over access and public transport to the Riverview site, should it go ahead. Similar concerns were raised to those in Bovey Tracey relating to staffing, funding and availability of care home beds. Both meetings were attended by local MP Sarah Wollaston.

#### **Meeting dates**

Details of future public meetings are available on our website (see below) and the coming week sees three meetings in Ashburton Town Hall on 20 September (1pm, 4 pm and 7pm) and at St Luke's Church in Buckfastleigh on 22 September (6.30 pm) as well as Chudleigh tonight.

## Property issues

A number of questions have been raised about the cost of maintaining hospitals, required investment and likely income from any sale. In response, the Trust and the CCG have brought together a short paper which sets out the available information and provides best estimates of some of the costs. The information is now available as a new support document on the CCG website and is available [here](#).

The figures suggest that to bring the four hospitals proposed for closure in the consultation up to the standard to provide modern health care, meeting Disability Discrimination Act and Health & Safety requirements, would be about £6.8m. Should a decision be made to close them after consultation, proceeds from the sales would raise about £4m. The properties are owned by the Trust and proceeds would be used to fund health and social care buildings in the South Devon and Torbay area which local people use.

## Feedback questionnaire

There has been some criticism of the questionnaire with allegations that it does not give people the opportunity to express their views and that it contains leading questions designed to get people to support the closure of hospitals.

The CCG has put forward for consultation a proposal which it believes will meet future health needs in a way that is affordable and sustainable. Its approach therefore in the feedback questionnaire is to give people the opportunity to comment on the different aspects of its proposals so the level of support for each can be identified. As well as the specific questions – which were developed in consultation with patients and voluntary groups - people can give their views in their own words and make alternative proposals. The CCG wants people to indicate which elements they do and do not support and in the context of the status quo not being a viable option, consider the different options that need to be taken to meet people's health needs in future.

## More information

On Monday, our website ([www.southdevonandtorbayccg.nhs.uk/community-health-services](http://www.southdevonandtorbayccg.nhs.uk/community-health-services)) will have a number of short videos on different aspects of the proposed model such as minor injuries units, integrated care, out of hospital care and integrated working. We have also expanded our Frequently Asked Questions in the light of issues which have been raised during the consultation so far and as indicated above added a property issues paper.

Paper copies of any consultation documents, which can be downloaded from our website, can be requested or questions asked by:

- Emailing [sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net](mailto:sdtccg.consultation@nhs.net)
- Writing to South Devon and Torbay CCG, Pomona House, Torquay, TQ2 7FF
- Calling 01803 652511 office hours (voicemail messaging overnight/weekends).

If you would like to invite us to any community group meetings please get in touch and we will do our best to attend.

## Submitting your views

Views expressed at public meetings and others attended by the CCG will be noted by Healthwatch (Devon and Torbay) and included in their independent report. Correspondence, petitions and other submissions will also be noted by Healthwatch. The feedback questionnaire can be accessed via the CCG or Trust website or via [www.communityconsultation.co.uk](http://www.communityconsultation.co.uk). The consultation closes on 23 November and the outcome is likely to be considered by the CCG's Governing Body at a meeting in public in January/February 2017.