

PRESS RELEASE

24 January 2013

NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG in talks over local hospital services

The newly established NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) today confirmed that it is in talks with a number of NHS organisations about the future of local hospital services.

These discussions are a consequence of the Joint Services Review, which over the last year has been looking at the services provided by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. It has previously been confirmed that the focus of the review was on the range of services available at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

Over the last few months the emerging NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group has been listening to the people of Redditch and Bromsgrove and their representatives and working hard to ensure that the widest possible range of services, which are clinically and financially sustainable, continue to be provided at the Alexandra Hospital.

It has previously confirmed that discussions were on-going with other NHS providers about the range of services available. The Clinical Commissioning Group is now able to confirm that it is in talks with University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Woman's NHS Foundation Trust about the provision of services in Redditch. These talks are taking place with the full support of the other Worcestershire based Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group remains fully committed to working to find a sustainable solution for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dr Jonathan Wells, Chair and Clinical Lead of the Clinical Commissioning Group, said:

"We are determined that the Alex remains a thriving local hospital providing a wide range of services for local people. We intend that these include both routine and emergency care as well as services for women and children. Our discussions with the Birmingham based NHS Foundation Trusts have been very positive and we are continuing to work with these Trusts and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust on a comprehensive model of care for local people. There is a lot more work to do but we are optimistic about the future. There will need to be change but we will ensure that this is in the interests of local people".

As part of the on-going Worcestershire-wide process the Clinical Commissioning Group will be making arrangements to explain this on-going work in more detail in order to receive public feedback and suggestions. The Clinical Commissioning Group would expect to be in a position to lead formal public consultation on the proposed changes in the summer of 2013.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

1. NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group was established as a statutory body under section 14B of the NHS Act 2006 (as amended) on 22nd January 2013. The Clinical Commissioning Group will become responsible for many of the functions of NHS Worcestershire on 1st April 2013.
2. NHS Worcestershire is abolished on 31st March 2013.
3. The Chairman and Clinical Lead of the Clinical Commissioning Group is Dr Jonathan Wells, a Redditch General Practitioner.
4. The majority of the members of the Clinical Commissioning Group's Governing Body are clinicians.

5. The Joint Services Review aims to ensure that Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust delivers clinically and financially sustainable acute hospital services.

To find out more:

- Visit the NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group website www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk
- 'Like' our page on Facebook www.facebook.com/redditchandbromsgroveccg
- Follow Dr Wells on Twitter @RBCCG_Chair

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