

**PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release**

Thursday 12, 2013

## **Acute Review moves into new phase of work**

**Health organisations within Worcestershire have agreed arrangements for the next phase of the work looking into how acute hospital services are provided across the county.**

The three Worcestershire CCGs, NHS England and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have now agreed that an independent Clinical Review Panel will be established as the main component of the next phase of work.

This Panel will be led by NHS England and will include expert clinicians from a range of specialties. The role of the Panel will be to review the work that has emerged from the two options for delivering a particular model of services that were proposed as part of the previous Joint Services Review. Timescales for the work are still being finalised but indications are that the Clinical Review Panel process will take approximately three months.

In addition a range of other sub-groups have been established with independent chairs to support the programme. The Worcestershire CCGs are also producing their commissioning intentions outlining what services they would like to commission on behalf of their local populations. These will be reviewed by NHS England and subsequently fed into the Clinical Review Panel as part of their assessment of Option 1 and Option 2.

**Lesley Murphy, Local Area Director for NHS England, said,** "I am pleased that the respective organisations have been able to agree on arrangements for the next phase of this work. There is full commitment by all NHS stakeholders to support the work of the programme and specifically the work of the clinical review panel, which will report back at the conclusion of this phase of work. Lots of work has been on-going behind the scenes and this reflects the fact that the review is critical to ensuring local people get access to the best range of acute hospital services. The previous Joint Services Review outlined a strong case for change and has given us a firm basis on which to move forward."

**Penny Venables, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute NHS Hospitals Trust, said,** "We remain committed to working with local partners in order to identify the optimum way we can deliver local acute hospital services for Worcestershire residents. Our clinicians have worked extremely hard to further develop the specification for proposed Options 1 and 2, building on the work originally done as part of the Joint Services Review. We now want to work closely with the Clinical Review Panel to make sure that these are the best solutions for local people."

**-Ends-**

## Notes for Editors

The Joint Services Review was initiated in January 2012 to look at how high quality, safe and affordable acute hospital services by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust could be sustained into the future. At the end of this project, in March 2013, a clinical model for how future services could be provided was recommended to NHS Worcestershire by Worcestershire's Clinical Senate. Under the proposals the vast majority of health care services would continue to be delivered locally. Some services would be centralised to improve patient treatments and outcomes, in particular some A&E, complex consultant led maternity services and inpatient children's services.

## Media enquiries:

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