

**PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release**

Wednesday 31 July, 2013

**Next steps: Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire**

The three Worcestershire based Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England have been working collaboratively with Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to redesign local acute hospital services and secure high quality, safe and sustainable services fit for the future.

Over the last 17 months - the NHS in Worcestershire has led a Joint Service Review (JSR) to reconfigure acute hospital services delivered by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) and make recommendations supported by local GPs and Consultants, for a future model of hospital care in the county which is both clinically sustainable and financially viable

These recommendations focused on changes at the Alexandra Hospital and would involve centralising consultant-led maternity services, overnight children's services and full A&E services on the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site.

Two different ways of delivering the model have been recommended:

- Option One, that would see Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust continue to run an amended range of services across its three hospital sites;
- Option Two, would see an alternative provider potentially managing services from the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

This work will now be taken forward through the new 'The Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire' programme led by the new Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England. This approach puts local GPs firmly at the heart of the work to provide safe and sustainable services for Worcestershire's patients. A new governance structure is being set up and a Programme Director has been appointed to take this work forward.

**In a joint statement Dr Carl Ellson, Chief Clinical Officer for NHS South Worcestershire CCG and Simon Hairsnape, Chief Officer for NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove and NHS Wyre Forest CCG, said,**

*"All three local CCGs are committed to working together on the next steps to redesign acute hospital services and secure the best possible healthcare for local people. We will need to consider how the two different options impact on our current commissioning plans and any service reconfigurations would of course be subject to a more formal public consultation process before any decisions are taken."*

-cont-

The Trust has been completing its internal review of both options and this work will now be reviewed by a panel made up of independent local and regional clinicians and other specialists to ensure that the options are clinically sustainable and financially viable.

Following this, the CCGs will lead a formal public consultation, inviting the public to have their say on the proposed changes before any decisions are made.

**-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.
- For more information about NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group please visit [www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk](http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk)
- For more information about NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning please visit: [www.southworcccg.nhs.uk](http://www.southworcccg.nhs.uk)
- For more information about NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group please visit: [www.wyreforestccg.nhs.uk](http://www.wyreforestccg.nhs.uk)

### **For further information please contact:**

- Hardeep Cheema, CCG Communications Manager on 07423 534211/ 01905 5681978 or email [Hardeep.cheema@worcestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:Hardeep.cheema@worcestershire.nhs.uk)
- Rebecca Salari, CCG Communications Officer on 07436 038382/01905 5681978 or email [Rebecca.Salari@worcestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Salari@worcestershire.nhs.uk)