



**North Cumbria**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# Healthcare For The Future Update

NHS North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group  
Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee  
22 May 2019

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Health Scrutiny Committee on the progress made following the Healthcare For the Future Consultation.

The public consultation was held September to December 2016, with decisions made in March 2017.

## 2. Maternity and Paediatrics

### **Maternity**

Currently there is no change to consultant-led services.

Alongside Midwifery-Led Units (AMLU) are in place at the West Cumberland Hospital (WCH) in Whitehaven and the Cumberland Infirmary Carlisle (CIC).

Women registering their pregnancy in north Cumbria are now some of the first across the country to have access to electronic maternity notes via an app. The 'Maternity Notes' app is available to download to a smartphone or tablet, and helps women track their pregnancy journey, keep a note of their ante-natal appointments and upload photos of themselves, their bump and eventually their baby. It also contains lots of information about baby's development as they move through their pregnancy, and up to six weeks post-birth. The new system is safer too, with women no longer needing to carry paper maternity notes.

Women who have a smartphone but no data can use NHS WiFi at local GPs, hospitals and other wifi hotspots to access 'Maternity Notes' and, for those who don't have a smartphone, the app can be accessed on the website on home PCs or at their local library.

Since going live on 1 April, 100% of women registering a new pregnancy have signed up to the app through [www.ncuh.nhs.uk/maternitybooking](http://www.ncuh.nhs.uk/maternitybooking)

### **Paediatrics**

The Short Stay Paediatric Assessment Units (SSPAU) are working well on both sites, with a Monday to Friday service 9-5 at the West Cumberland Hospital and for 14 hours at Cumberland Infirmary. Feedback from staff and service-users has been positive.

There is currently no change to overnight beds at WCH.

The SSPAUs will continue to develop when required staffing is in place.

## **12 Month Review and feedback from the Independent Review Group**

In March 2017 the CCG Governing Body agreed:

Recommendation 2.1: To test the viability of Option 1 over a 12 month period

Recommendation 2.2: If Option 1 is not proven to be deliverable or sustainable then implement Option 2 at the end of the 12 month period

Recommendation 2.3: Whilst testing Option 1, to prepare for Option 2 by implementing a Midwifery Led Unit (MLU) in Whitehaven alongside the Consultant Led Unit, in order that the MLU can be audited as if it was freestanding

Recommendation 2.4: To implement Option 3 if Option 1 is not proven to be deliverable or sustainable and, following audit of the MLU, Option 2 is not deemed to be safe.

The CCG Governing Body agreed the 12 month review of progress around the long-term sustainability of consultant-led services at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven as part of its decision making process in March 2017 and endorsed the development of co-production with the community to ensure all ideas and energy are being utilised.

This involves a group of independent clinical experts – the Independent Review Group (IRG) – and is chaired by Bill Kirkup. A Working Together Steering Group is chaired by the Venerable Richard Pratt, the Archdeacon of West Cumberland.

The 12 month time-limited review period started on April 1 2018 and ended on 31 March 2019. The process of reviewing data is underway with the intention that the IRG will report to the CCG in the summer.

This approach was supported by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care following the decision by Cumbria's Health Scrutiny Committee to refer the decision.

The CCG Governing Body members will consider the report from the IRG, a report at a meeting held in public in the summer.

## **3. Stroke Services**

### **Stroke**

Work continues to develop a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) at the Cumberland Infirmary Carlisle, but acute services for north Cumbria will not change until conditions to support the development are in place.

There is considerable work to ensure estates and equipment issues are resolved, as well as the ongoing challenge around staffing. Progress is expected over the summer.

Work with Building Health Partnerships – supported by NHS England - to develop a community-led stroke prevention movement is ongoing. The Copeland Community Stroke Prevention Group is planning a series of community events offering health testing and advice to reduce the number of avoidable strokes. There is also a community pharmacy project underway in communities where there are significantly higher than the average number of strokes offering testing to people who may be potentially at risk.

## 4. Integrated Care Communities (ICCs)

### ICC Developments

Health and wellbeing action groups to help tackle local health issues in Workington, Cockermouth and Maryport were launched in March. Events were held in each area to launch the groups and saw around 50 people at each, including residents, local organisations, community groups and health and care practitioners to discuss the key health challenges in each area. The events were led by Maryport and Cockermouth Integrated Care Community (ICC) and Workington ICC which bring together GPs, community services, adult social care and other health and care partners with the community to support the health and wellbeing of local people. Conversations from the events identified healthy weight and smoking cessation as two of the key concerns as well as associated health problems such as diabetes and stroke. In addition mental wellbeing, alcohol misuse, falls prevention and social isolation were also highlighted. The group in Workington also discussed some of the wider factors that affect people's health and wellbeing such as housing and employment. ICCs will increasingly use a social prescribing approach, recognising that people's health is affected by a range of social, economic and environmental factors and connecting people with third sector organisations and community resources to address this. Other ICCs will follow this approach. Cumbria CVS has also recruited Third Sector reps for each ICC to ensure links are strengthening.

In May the new NHS England national medical director visited frontline staff in north Cumbria and saw first-hand the impact of the team running the Maryport and Cockermouth hub. Professor Stephen Powis said: "The Long Term Plan sets out a vision for integrating services which means much more joined up care for patients. It is clear that north Cumbria is undergoing an improving transformation in healthcare. I have seen here how they are translating the Long Term Plan into practical action, and that means for the people of north Cumbria, much more seamless healthcare."

He was accompanied by Matthew Cripps, the NHS England director for sustainable healthcare, who commented: "I've enjoyed seeing some of the clever things that are happening here in north Cumbria and meeting the individuals who are making it happen – individuals who are the vital cogs in the engine providing seamless healthcare for patients."

They also visited Hazel Ward and the Heart Centre at the Cumberland Infirmary; the hub at Maryport and Cockermouth ICC; and the teams in the Same Day Health Centre and Accident and Emergency at the West Cumberland Hospital and saw how ICCs were supporting patients through links to A+E teams including Home First.

### **Cottage Hospital Update**

Refurbishment work to improve the patient experience and ensure better privacy and dignity for inpatients is due to begin at Brampton hospital. Significant refurbishment is set to begin in June and to take around six months to complete. The extent of the works means that the ward will close during this time. It is expected that most Brampton staff will join the Brampton /Longtown and Carlisle community health teams until the work is completed. This will help bolster the out of hospital care that is available in Carlisle, Brampton and Longtown and help reduce hospital admissions.

Brampton hospital will continue to deliver all other services including outpatient services, physiotherapy and podiatry clinics and children and midwifery clinics.

The Trust had hoped to be able to undertake the works at Penrith hospital at the same time, however, in order to ensure that we maximise the availability of beds for our patients across north Cumbria while the works at Brampton are undertaken, work to refurbish Penrith Hospital will now take place in 2020.

Health leaders are confident the enhanced community model supporting the communities around Brampton and Carlisle along with keeping open the 28 beds in Penrith will meet the needs of patients over the next few months.

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