

# **North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group**

**REPORT TO THE: HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON FUTURE SERVICES AT WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**TOWN OR PARISH:**

**PRESENTED BY: DR MARY BACKHOUSE**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel discuss and comment on the presentation regarding the current public engagement exercise that is going on locally to gather views and feedback on early ideas on how we can ensure a sustainable future of services at Weston General Hospital.

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report summarises the work to date of the North Somerset Sustainability Board, a partnership of local health and social care commissioners and providers and Healthwatch North Somerset. This work has culminated in a period of public engagement on early thinking on how services at Weston General Hospital can be made sustainable. Although members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be very familiar with the background issues and work to date, we are asking as part of the engagement process for formal consideration and comment of the consent of the engagement work.

### **2. POLICY**

North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, as the coordinating consulting authority, has identified three key actions and opportunities for the system in achieving a sustainable model at Weston:

- Support the ongoing resilience of the emergency services
- Work with the North Somerset Sustainability Board to identify future models of care
- Agree models to maximise use of the Weston hospital estate for example, operating theatre capacity to meet elective demand across North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire

### **3. DETAILS**

[Click here to enter Details] Weston General Hospital has a great deal to offer the community it serves, but it can't provide every single service that the NHS offers,

particularly for a growing population. We think we need to focus on solutions that play to Weston General Hospital's strengths and focus on the core services that local people are most likely to need. Working with local doctors and nurses we have developed the following ideas based on Weston General Hospital's strengths and looking at national best practice for a modern day NHS.

There are four main ideas that we are engaging on

:

#### 1. CHANGE THE URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE SERVICE MODEL OVERNIGHT FROM 10PM – 8AM

A 24/7 urgent and emergency care service will continue to operate from Weston General Hospital. A small number of patients who need specialist care overnight would need to be treated at larger hospitals nearby. In Weston General Hospital's case this already happens for stroke and heart attack patients, major trauma (e.g. severe injury from a car crash) and seriously ill children.

#### 2. BRING DAY TO DAY NON-COMPLEX PLANNED OPERATIONS BACK TO WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Weston General Hospital is good at delivering planned non-complex operations (and some more complex procedures). There is theatre capacity to do more planned surgery which would support greater patient choice, and ensure the hospital receives a bigger share of NHS funding. Evidence shows that patients who are treated closer to home, for less serious conditions, are more likely to have a better recovery and can go home, more quickly.

#### 3. TRANSFER SOME EMERGENCY SURGERY TO OTHER HOSPITALS

Only a small number of patients need emergency surgery – particularly overnight – and we know it's better for them to be treated in a hospital by specialist teams. For the last ten years patients requiring treatment for major trauma, stroke or heart attack, as well as children needing emergency care, are treated by specialist teams at Southmead Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Bristol Children's Hospital during the night. The evidence is clear that for certain rare and complex problems, patients get better care being seen by a specialist team, this is in-line with the national health planning.

#### 4. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BEDS IN THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT ON THE WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL SITE

This would bring patients who needed the most care together in one place. The existing unit only has five beds which is smaller than experts advise to run an efficient service.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

The North Somerset Sustainability Board is a body made up of key stakeholders within the local area, including:

Weston Area Health NHS Trust  
North Somerset Council  
North Somerset, Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups  
Other key local providers, including University Hospitals Bristol, North Bristol Trust, Taunton & Somerset FT, South Western Ambulance Service and North Somerset Community Partnership, One Care  
Healthwatch North Somerset  
NHS England and NHS Improvement

We want to spend two months having a conversation with patients, staff and the wider public about the options available to ensure that the services at Weston General Hospital are sustainable in the long term. We want to hear from the public and get their suggestions and ideas to ensure we co-design services that are not only sustainable but also meet their needs.

Once the results of the current period of engagement have been received and understood, the Sustainability Board will oversee the development of detailed proposals for ensuring future services are sustainable. As per national guidance, if any proposals are deemed to involve significant service change then there will be a further period of 12 week consultation. Currently, the project plan schedules the consultation period (if required) to run from September to November 2017.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs of delivering the programme are being met via existing resources of health and social care agencies in the North Somerset, Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire area. Financial impact of any final proposals will be fully modelled and published after the responses from the engagement process are received and understood.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

A risk register is being kept by the programme. As part of the development of any final proposals, a full risk assessment will be completed. As a matter of principle, the Sustainability Board have agreed that no proposals will be put forward that expert clinicians assesses as carrying unacceptable risk.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The early proposals that form the engagement process have been subject to an impact assessment by local expert clinicians. If as, an outcome of the engagement process, final proposals involve significant service change then a full impact assessment will be done and made available as part of the required consultation process.

## **8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

[Click here to enter Options Considered] No final proposals have been agreed at this stage. A Pre Consultation Business case prior to the consultation period and a subsequent Decision Making Business Case will give a full rationale as to how the preferred options have been arrived at.

## **AUTHOR**

Colin Bradbury, Programme Director - North Somerset Sustainability Board. Tel: 01275 546774.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A PowerPoint presentation is included to present to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.