

Humber Acute Services Review

Autumn Update, September 2019

As commissioners and providers of acute services we are working together to tackle some big issues.

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

Demands for emergency care and planned services are rising as people live longer with multiple and increasingly complex needs. At the same time there are fewer doctors and nurses coming through and many more due to retire. Whilst not unique to the Humber these issues have a greater impact on our ability to deliver quality, safe and sustainable services compared to others because we don't have a circular span of workforce and population to draw from due to our rural and coastal position.

LOCAL IMPACT:

The effects are wide ranging – for example, across our local hospitals there are a number of clinical specialties where each organisation has only one or two consultants or other specialists providing certain services. In the three years up to 2017/18 we saw a 40% increase in our spending on agency and locum staff, which impacts on both the financial position of our organisations and the quality of care that can be delivered. At the same time, increasing numbers of people within the Humber area are waiting longer than they should for routine treatment. Our clinical teams – nurses, doctors and managers across the two Trusts and five hospital sites – came together in August and September to discuss the issues we collectively face in delivering services to patients living in the Humber area.

These big issues are matched by our ambition to bring about equally big changes in order to secure the long term future of acute hospital provision across the Humber.

LOCAL RESPONSE:

Our clinical teams are working together through October and November to come up with ideas and design potential solutions – taking every advantage of technology, new workforce models and opportunities in primary and community care to modernise outpatient and emergency care, in ways that secure the future of hospital provision for people and communities in Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT:

Our conversations with patients and the public started in 2018 and have continued throughout 2019. We are talking with a whole range of people about ideas and potential solutions throughout October. The purpose of these conversations is to build a really good understanding about the impact of these and challenge our thinking as we develop any potential options for evaluation.

If members of the public would like to be involved then please contact: 01482 344700 or humber.acutereview@nhs.net to arrange a telephone/Skype interview, or register for an engagement event.



We are keeping our members of staff and trade unions informed as well as our partners in health and care throughout this time.

If members of staff have views on the clinical design then please contact your Divisional Clinical Director or Health Group Director to access the workshop material.

All stakeholders can find out more about the issues we face, what the review is doing and how to get involved in public engagement events at <https://humbercoastandvale.org.uk/humberacutereview/>.

EVALUATION:

We developed our criteria to support decisions about acute services in 2018 with key stakeholders including clinicians, local NHS leaders and local authority representatives. We refined these with patients, community group representatives and organisations representing groups of people living across the Humber throughout January-March this year. We will describe exactly how we will apply the criteria to the potential options with our Trust Board and Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body members in October.

Evaluation of ideas and potential options will be done by our Clinical Design Group in November. This will not lead to a decision about what form services will take. The result will be a range of viable options which, based on the criteria, can reasonably be expected to deliver quality, safe and sustainable services for our local populations in the long term.

DECISIONS:

We will make a collective decision in December about how we take things forward. There will be many things we can empower our clinical teams to just get on with and others where significant service change may be necessary in order to address the issues we face. We will use the evaluation to form our recommendations and seek support for these from our respective Trust Boards and Governing Bodies. We will also use this information to involve Overview and Scrutiny Committees and support their decisions regarding the impact of proposed service change in each Local Authority area and approach to involvement that is to be taken subsequently.

EXPERT INVOLVEMENT:

A panel of independent clinicians and lay people drawn from across the North of England will meet our clinicians to discuss the issues and proposed solutions, and offer impartial evidence-based advice. We are also talking to our NHS regulators and other independent bodies to make sure we are doing the very best we can for the communities we serve.

