

Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care – 27th September 2007

Report of Lead Officer to the Committee

Investing for Health a Strategic framework – West Midlands Strategic Health Authority Consultation.

Purpose of Report

1. To invite members to comment upon and make decisions as appropriate in relation to the proposals contained in the Investing for Health framework consultation
2. The consultation was launched on a micro-site/website www.ifh.westmidlands.nhs.uk where the full document can be accessed chapter by chapter. There is the facility to leave comments on each and every section of the Framework **however users must register first**. The contents of this site have also been made available, in paperback, in the **members' library**.
3. Overview and Scrutiny committees (OSCs) across the region have been encouraged to use the website instead of the paper version in order to form their views.

Background

4. The framework outlines how health services will be improved in the West Midlands over the next five years by reshaping services around the needs of the patient and driving up clinical quality by further supporting front line staff.
5. It outlines why now is a good time to signal a clear direction for local health services and an opportunity to make real improvements in the local NHS. In doing this it introduces the 7 big challenges for the local NHS to tackle to achieve these improvements.
 - Challenge 1 - Despite improvements in overall health status, inequalities in health have widened.
 - Challenge 2 - We are not investing enough in prevention
 - Challenge 3 - There remains an unjustifiable variability in the quality and safety of services and individual care, and a significant number of complaints are about standards of fundamental care.

- Challenge 4 - The rate of cost pressures arising from doing "more of the same" with an aging population, a rising tide of long term conditions and an accelerating pace of technological development in providing responses to illness outstrips any conceivable rate of increased funding.
 - Challenge 5 - The public, our 'customers' have little confidence that their local NHS will get better.
 - Challenge 6 - We continue to spend substantial amounts of resources on clinical activities where the evidence suggests there is little or no return on the investment in terms of improved health or where the evidence shows that there are other, better, and more cost-effective alternatives.
 - Challenge 7 - Patients expect services to be joined up and to have coordination across teams caring for them and yet the fact is that at present patients and public often struggle to understand how services work.
6. Each of the chapters represents a strategic theme within which NHS West Midlands wish to develop programmes to deliver change or policy frameworks to ensure that certain standards and approaches are adopted. The chapters are:
- Full Engagement - Supporting innovation and ensuring proven evidence based actions are taken to achieve more patients engaged in their own health and a significant shift towards preventative and 'wellness' services - in so doing, to tackle inequalities head on.
 - Quality, safety and excellence of patient experience - Putting clinical quality, safety and patient experience at the centre of commissioning, training and service development.
 - Care closer to home - Supporting the delivery of local plans to achieve a significant increase in the availability of services in the community. This will be achieved through ensuring discipline, ambition and innovation in supporting and managing patients with long term conditions; in a fundamental reshaping of services to support end-of-life-care; and in working with PCTs to increase the range, quality, availability and choices across primary and community care.
 - Sustainable services and sustainable local health systems - Managing the consequences of the shift in activity from hospital to community; ensuring that investment plans for new primary and community services and facilities are fit for purpose; establishing an approach to achieve hospital services that are "local where possible; specialist where necessary" and to empower patients and public in engaging with local proposals for change; ensuring that every part of the West Midlands has a clear, overarching service transformation plan; developing ways to make the pattern of services overall understandable to staff and patients.
 - Organisations Fit for Purpose - Ensuring that health commissioning (PCTs) and providing (NHS Trusts; PCTs; other providers) organisations in the West Midlands have the capability to use the freedoms and tools available to them so commissioners can identify need, manage demand and specify

the services required; providers can improve productivity; and both can improve responsiveness, accessibility and quality of services; to ensure that the role NHS West Midlands plays in this is clear, and consistent for all.

- In the final chapter, "Making it Happen", it is demonstrated how the "The 7 big challenges" will be tackled.

Finance

7. There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report at this stage.

Law

8. The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Council's Constitution are contained in Part 11 of the Local Government Act 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Equality Impact

9. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

10. Via the aforementioned website, consider the proposals in the Framework and make decisions about them as appropriate.

Brendan Clifford

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List of Background Papers

None