

Stakeholder News

Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Stakeholder News' from the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). The STP is a partnership of 18 health and care organisations that share a vision to improve the life expectations of the diverse communities living in the Black Country. It includes local authorities, hospitals and other health providers and our local clinical commissioners. This newsletter will keep you up to date with some of our key projects. To find out more about our partnership go to our dedicated [web page](#).

Helen's Blog



Across the Black Country and West Birmingham this week we are celebrating the 70th birthday of our NHS. Tea parties, bake offs, competitions and musical entertainment are just some of the ways in which our NHS colleagues are marking the day on 5 July.

We are not just celebrating access to free healthcare, which the NHS enabled, but also advances in understanding and treating disease. There has been some incredible progress that has led to a steady increase in life expectancy. But we still have much to do as a health service as we witness the increasing number of people living with multiple long-term, debilitating conditions such as diabetes, COPD and poor mental health.

Our Partnership is crucial in helping us solve these health and social care issues. By collaborating and working together we can do so much more to improve the health and wellbeing of people and families in the Black Country. I believe our success will lie in bringing our patients, families and clinicians with us by listening to them, understanding what they are telling us and using this information to help shape our activities.

Over the summer, we will carry out a major piece of engagement to develop our clinical strategy. This aims to take the priorities that local clinical leaders have identified over the past year, both in our localities and across the wider STP, and will set out a framework for delivering them. The strategy is likely to include a mix of national and local priorities including cancer care, emergency care, primary care development and mental health. We have already started to engage a larger group of clinicians and managers in the strategy and over the coming months will be seeking feedback from patients and other stakeholders.

Alongside the clinical strategy, senior Partnership leaders have been working with NHS England to ensure we have an overarching STP strategic plan, built from our place-based plans, and the governance, relationships and processes in place to deliver our priorities. We

have reviewed our work over the past couple of years and are developing a work plan for the next 12 months. I am confident that our original Partnership plan remains sound. However, in the light of our developing work we will be refreshing our work streams and ensuring they are adequately resourced and complement the great work that is going on locally to bring health and social care services together.

Dr Helen Hibbs

Senior Responsible Officer, Black Country and West Birmingham STP

Better care for people with learning disabilities

Improving care for people with learning disabilities, some of the most vulnerable people in our society, remains a priority for the Partnership.

The Black Country Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) is putting in place services to support more people with learning disabilities and/or autism to live in the community and closer to family and friends.

Over the coming months, TCP colleagues will be engaging with stakeholders about the proposed clinical model for these services in the Black Country. The new clinical model will focus on having the right support, at the right time, in the right place to maintain people's rights, respect and dignity.

Following engagement with stakeholders, the new service will be introduced in March 2019.

Local clinicians work together to agree health priorities

Clinicians across the Black Country and West Birmingham are working together to improve the lives of local people by agreeing health priorities for the next five years.

At a recent STP Clinical Leadership Group meeting, participants reviewed 12 priorities as part of a draft clinical strategy and made recommendations to further develop these by engaging with local GPs, clinical staff, patients and public.

The clinical strategy will support health and care organisations to collectively raise the quality of services and commit to a culture of continuous improvement and co-production - ensuring better health, better care and better value of services.

A number of factors are driving the strategy. They include increasing demand for healthcare, economic deprivation, high infant mortality, poor mental health and high levels of obesity. ,

New fund to aid GP retention

New schemes that encourage GPs to stay in the workforce will be made possible through a local GP retention fund. Up to £400,000 will be made available to the Black Country and West Birmingham STP to promote new ways of working and offer additional support to local GPs.

Research shows poor job satisfaction within general practice as a result of increasing workload and bureaucracy, and lack of peer support. This is leading to an increase in the number of GPs who are choosing to leave the general practice, or work part-time.

The local funding will support the development of innovative retention initiatives for GPs who are:

- considering leaving general practice, or changing their role or working hours;
- no longer clinically practising in the NHS in England but remain on the National Performers List (Medical)
- newly qualified or within their first five years of practice.

Schemes will include, for example flexible working, peer support systems and pooled working arrangements. They will be designed to support both individual GPs and their practices. The Partnership has been named a GP Retention Intensive Support Site and will now test emerging best practice from across the country to kick start the set-up and implementation of local retention schemes.

Partnership sets out vision for primary care

STP partners have published their strategy for ensuring GP practices across the Black Country and West Birmingham have access to the clinical skills and support they need to deliver efficient, resilient services to patients and families.

The strategy sets out how primary care services will be delivered across multidisciplinary integrated teams, seven days per week. Together with partners, the aim is to bring care closer to home and offer more services in GP practices than ever before, in the hope that this will help improve the patient experience and reduce unnecessary visits to hospitals.

Download the strategy to find out more.

[Black Country and West Birmingham Primary Care Workforce Strategy](#)
