

# 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



We received wonderful news from the Midland Metropolitan Hospital earlier this month when the Government announced it will fund the completion of the new site following the collapse of Carillion at the beginning of this year. As a partnership, we have been fully behind the development of the Midland Met which will have a major impact on health services across the region. Securing this funding is great news for residents in the Black Country and West Birmingham.

Further good news has come with our successful completion of a 12-week development programme commissioned by NHS England. We were invited to take part in the programme to help us take our partnership to the next level. It has proved extremely useful, enabling us to bring our thinking together and develop a detailed roadmap that will lead us to become an integrated care system over the next two to three years. The roadmap recognises the work we have already done and identifies what still needs doing to achieve our triple aim of improved health and wellbeing, high quality care and secure finances.

## **Stakeholder News – August 2018**

At the same time, we have been working with clinicians across the Black Country to develop our clinical strategy. This will inform the delivery of health and care services across the partnership footprint and later in the autumn we will start talking to Black Country & West Birmingham residents and patients about how we will deliver our clinical priorities.

I will also be meeting local authority elected members to update them on progress to date. Councillors will be pleased to hear that local, place-based integration remains the core of our plan with Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell & West Birmingham all bringing local health and care together in a way that meets their population needs.

Our roadmap includes some challenging targets and deadlines which will require a significant increase in capacity and capability. Therefore, I was delighted earlier this month to appoint Alastair McIntyre to the role of Portfolio Director. Alastair is joining us from NHS England and brings a wealth of regional knowledge and experience. As Portfolio Director of the STP, he will be key to driving forward our roadmap and action plans. I am sure you will join me in welcoming him to the Black Country.

### **Dr Helen Hibbs**

Senior Responsible Officer, Black Country and West Birmingham STP

## STP Portfolio Director Appointed



The Black Country and West Birmingham STP is pleased to confirm the appointment of Alastair McIntyre as its Portfolio Director.

Alastair's role will be to manage STP health and care programmes across the Black Country and West Birmingham. He will work with STP partners to support the delivery of improved health and wellbeing for local people.

Alastair joins the STP from NHS England where he was Director of Operations for the West Midlands Directors of Commissioning Operations (DCO) Team. Alastair has worked in local, regional and national positions over the past 18 years and prior to that held a number of roles within mental health commissioning.

Speaking about his appointment, Alastair said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to reshape the way we deliver health and care services in the Black Country and West Birmingham. I'm passionate about involving patients and public and I'm looking forward to working together with local communities and staff to turn our vision of improved health and wellbeing into reality."

## News from around the Partnership

### Families help shape future of local maternity care

Local mums, dads and families are invited to find out how their feedback is helping shape maternity services in the Black Country at a 'You Said, We Did' event on Wednesday 26 September.

Over the last year, NHS organisations have held a series of listening workshops and talked to more than 200 women and families about their experience of maternity services in the Black Country.

The feedback from these workshops will be presented on 26 September as part of an action plan for developing local maternity care.

## Stakeholder News – August 2018

Sally Roberts, Chief Nurse for Black Country Local Maternity Systems thanked all those attending the workshops over the past year and said: “The insight we gained has been invaluable in developing future maternity services across the Black Country.

“We are committed to working together to give local mums the best possible experience of pregnancy, birth and postnatal care.”

‘You Said, We Did’ takes place on Wednesday 26 September 2018, 10am-2pm at the Holiday Inn, Walsall M6 Junction 10, Walsall, WS2 0BS. Book your place [online](#) or to find out more, telephone 01922 618388. Babies and children are welcome.

### Maternity Voices Partnership supports local parents

Local parents and parents-to-be have the opportunity to share their maternity experiences and help develop future services by joining the Black Country Maternity Voices Partnership.

The Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) is a forum for mums, dads and families to come together, with monthly meetings held in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Being part of the MVP is a great way to help the Black Country Local Maternity System understand what parents and families want and need from every stage of their maternity journey. There is also the opportunity to meet and talk to other parents and discuss services with local maternity staff.

If you're interested in joining your local MVP or would like to share your views on maternity services, visit the MVP [webpage](#) for a list of meetings in your area. You can also stay up to date with local news by following [@local\\_maternity](#) on Twitter.

### 17,000 hospital nights and £7m saved through early treatment 'iCares' scheme

An innovative idea to treat people earlier for illnesses like flu and chest infections has led to patients in Sandwell and West Birmingham avoiding 17,000 nights in hospital and the NHS saving £7 million to be reinvested back into patient care.

The iCares system, developed at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, flags people with long-term conditions who are at high risk of hospital admission to a team of 100 staff who make sure they are seen as early as possible.

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Previously, patients were coping at home until in many cases they needed to be admitted to hospital. But now patients or their carers can simply call a number if they need help and are assessed and then seen in as little as three hours by a team dedicated to hospital avoidance.

So far the scheme has reduced hospital admissions by 2,478 a year and 93 per cent of patients who access the service stay in the community.

The move has also contributed to reduced lengths of stays in A&E, reduced lengths of stays in hospital from 10 days to seven days, and reduced readmission rates.

Ruth Williams, Clinical Directorate Lead at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, set up the iCares scheme five years ago after realising how difficult it was for patients to navigate the system and the waste created by multiple teams.

“iCares is based on need and not diagnosis,” she said.

“What we’ve done is make the system simpler: one phone number, everyone can ring and one team which works together and navigates the system for the patient, keeping 93 per cent of urgent cases out of hospital.

“Most importantly of all, people only have to tell their story once.”

[Find out more on the iCares webpage.](#)