

# Black Country Health and Care

## News from the Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership

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### Introduction

Welcome to Black Country Health and Care - part of a series of stakeholder newsletters 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](#).

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### Coming of age



Over the next few weeks we will start our search for an independent Chair of the Black Country health and care Partnership. Getting to this stage has been my focus for the past three months and so it is right that I stand down, let the new team take over and once again, focus on my role as AO of Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG.

Leading this first stage of the Partnership has been tough at times but also rewarding. I have got to know, or know better, some amazing people who are committed to improving the health and care we offer people in the Black Country and raising their life chances. For those of us who have been involved in the development of the Partnership, there is a great deal to be proud of.

It was no mean feat pulling together the 18 organisations that make up our Partnership. While some had a long history of working together, many of us did not have established relationships. But we overcame this and put together a viable plan for the Black Country that has vision, clarity and energy.

We have also continued to develop our local place-based systems. There are differences in the models we are putting forward across our localities and genuine innovation. All our place-based systems have primary care at their centre and this has to be the right way forward – given that 90% of contact people have with health and care is through their GP practice.

I firmly believe that we cannot transform services unless we transform primary care and this

means investing in primary care at scale. Robust primary care is also the route to involving our local authorities in the partnership and truly integrating health and care systems.

Having spent time with our Black Country local authorities, I know that they also buy into our third achievement over the past 18 months. This is our commitment to tackling the wider determinants of health – housing, education, jobs, and crime; all those things that we know impact on our health. This is a massively ambitious idea but it is the piece that can bring us together across the Black Country and beyond. Furthermore, collaboration and innovation around this agenda will make a difference to people's lives.

There is no denying the challenge ahead for our new Chair and the Partnership as a whole. The new team will have to help us deliver our three key accountabilities: to our local communities; to the Black Country and West Birmingham as a whole; and to our partners across the West Midlands Combined Authority area.

### **Andy Williams**

Black Country and West Birmingham STP Lead

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## Local mums help reshape maternity care



Local mums are playing a key role in reshaping maternity services across the Black Country.

More than 100 women and babies came together this week to share their experience of maternity care in the Black Country with senior health professionals.

Their thoughts and ideas will feed into NHS plans to reshape maternity care to offer more choice and more personalised local services that meet the needs of mothers and families. **Local mum, Julie Oakley who attended the workshop with her five month old son James, said:** “I think it is

really important to be able to share my maternity experience and listen to other mother's share their stories. Having the opportunity to talk to professionals and listen to their perspective, really makes you feel part of something”.

The Black Country and West Birmingham Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) is leading the drive to improve local maternity services.

**Andy Williams, Black Country and West Birmingham STP Lead, thanks all the mothers and families who took time to share their maternity experiences and said:** “Your views are so important and will make all the difference when developing local services that meet the needs of women and families in the Black Country.”

Feedback from the workshops will be used to develop a Black Country maternity action plan for how services should be delivered by 2020/21. The action plan will be presented to the Local Maternity System (LMS) Board in May 2018.