

NHS Update – August 2011

Stakeholder Assembly considers the changing face your local NHS

Representatives from patient groups, voluntary and community organisations, Army Primary Care, Wiltshire GPs and the local council met to discuss the future of health care across the county when NHS Wiltshire held its Stakeholder Assembly on Thursday 23 June.

The Stakeholder Assembly, which is organised and held by NHS Wiltshire twice a year, considered changes to the National Health Service as a result of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 and the priorities for future engagement with stakeholders in the future.

Eighty seven delegates received presentations about the Government's response to the Future Forum Committee's recommendations to the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, the role of Public Health, the establishment of HealthWatch and presentations from local GPs who presented on the organisation and structure of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups as well as the improvement of primary care in care homes. In view of the considerable changes proposed, delegates welcomed the opportunity to take part in a new feature – a question and answer session with a panel consisting of health professionals and GPs. A wide range of questions were raised covering a variety of themes and attendees welcomed the potential to gain a deeper understanding and to hold meaningful discussions which have an impact on future decision making. The input from GPs was much appreciated as bringing a fresh dimension and honesty to the debate.

Broad themes arising from the day will help to set the priorities for joint working between the PCT, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Wiltshire Council, and included an assurance for the smooth, safe and effective transfer of commissioning duties to Clinical Commissioning Groups; to ensure that appropriate patient and public involvement is kept as a priority by Clinical Commissioning Groups; to ensure that equality and parity of services in Wiltshire are kept at the forefront of future planning and that joint working between the PCT and Clinical Commissioning Groups continues so that existing skills and knowledge are maintained and developed.

In conclusion, the Stakeholder Assembly was considered an important opportunity to discuss NHS plans with patients and partners and to think about how local people can be involved as we go forward.

Next NHS Wiltshire Board Meeting

The next Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on **21 September 2011 at 10am - Southgate House**. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk). For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please email communications@wiltshire.nhs.uk