

# News Release

19 January 2017

## **Clinical Services Review Consultation Statement**

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust supports the Clinical Services Review case for change and we encourage the public, patients and our staff to respond to the consultation.

The NHS is facing rising and unsustainable costs to meet increasing demand, while trying to improve the quality and consistency of care and health outcomes. The CSR offers an opportunity to ensure the people of Dorset continue to receive safe and high quality health services. We support this approach to change which has been driven by evidence, clinical leadership and practicality.

We welcome the proposed designation for Dorset County Hospital as the 'planned care and emergency hospital with 24/7 A&E' as we believe this is best for our local population. This means we will continue to provide the district general hospital services we currently deliver to our patients under the CSR proposals.

However, this proposed designation would not mean 'no change' at DCH. Our own strategy is clear that rising demand on our services coupled with stretched resources mean we cannot carry on doing things the way we have always done.

Regarding the options for paediatrics and maternity, our preferred solution for providing a sustainable and safe service for women and children is to work with Yeovil District Hospital. The CSR is an opportunity to ensure these services are organised in the most sustainable way for the future which best meets the needs of the local population. A collaboration between DCH and YDH has long been viewed as a desirable outcome by clinicians at DCH. Our consultant paediatricians and obstetricians will continue to work with their colleagues in Yeovil on the best possible solution for the local population.

In terms of the options for the siting of the major emergency centre in the east of the county we believe both options are possible. We accept the CCG's preferred option regarding the location of the Major Emergency Hospital due to the analysis and evaluation showing Option B as a more accessible and affordable option.

We fully welcome the proposed move to more joined up services. We are already working closely with our community care and primary care partners and look forward to taking the opportunity to further strengthen those links.

Following the outcome of the consultation we look forward to working with the CCG to ensure any future service changes proposed are both safe and sustainable and that the focus of CCG investment in the east and in community services does not adversely impact services provided to patients in the west of the county.

We are also encouraging our staff to respond to the consultation as local residents – they and their families are NHS patients too. We are also seeking professional views of our staff to feed into our formal Trust response.

It is vital that local people respond to the consultation through the channels set up by the Clinical Commissioning Group – online or by filling out the printed consultation document questionnaire. Copies are available around Dorset County Hospital, including our main reception area.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, [susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk) or the Chief Executive's Office on 01305 254641.**