



A 'Better Care Closer to Home' Consultation Fact-sheet: Evidence that the community-based service model works

About the consultation

The proposals in the 'Better Care Closer to Home' consultation are about changes to services for two groups of older people who use community hospital services. Those who are recovering from an accident or illness after a spell of inpatient care at an acute hospital and those who have dementia. The proposals would mean the majority of these care needs would in the future be met in, or near to, older people's own homes as long as it safe to do so rather than provided in a community hospital as currently happens.

Why have we produced this fact-sheet?

We have produced fact-sheets about aspects of different topics that may be of interest to people, organisations and individuals wishing to respond to the consultation.

What is this fact-sheet about?

It relates to services for older people recovering from an accident or illness after a spell of inpatient care at an acute hospital and the proposal to provide more care either in or nearer to these patient's home. This fact-sheet sets out Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust's (a 21C partner organisation) experience of improving care that has led over time to a declining need for its existing community hospital rehabilitation beds.

Improving care leads to a declining need for community hospital rehabilitation beds

We have been making improvements to the way care is provided in North Derbyshire for some time. These improvements now mean that services in their current form are no longer sustainable and we recognise now is the time to change. This is because the evolution of more effective community-based care has enabled more people to stay in hospital for shorter periods to receive the essential care they need so we are now less reliant on traditional community hospital-bedded care. As a result of these improvements, with more people being looked after in the community than historically would have been in a hospital, our local community provider, DCHS, has experienced a trend of reduced requirement for community hospital rehabilitation beds. This can be demonstrated by the reduced number of admissions and length of stay for people who do need inpatient bedded care over the past four financial years:

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	% change
Admissions	1966	1744	1631	1265	-36%
Average length of stay	26.9	22.2	21.6	18.6	-31%

The figures can be correlated with a number of factors which include:

- The development of integrated working which led to the development of integrated community-based teams
- A change in the way that inpatients are managed within community hospitals (through a system called Community Jonah which is a different way of planning and managing patients' care and expected discharge dates in order to improve the coordination of care and avoid delays in discharge).

As part of the pre-consultation engagement work the new models of community-bedded care, which are set out in the consultation document and form the proposals, were reviewed independently in June 2014 by the East Midlands Clinical Senate. The review panel supported the view that the vision in North Derbyshire for developing the options for integrated out-of-hospital care is based on sound evidence and best practice. The review panel also supported the view that the local evidence base and modelling assumptions support the proposed scale of change in relation to community-bedded care.

Other evidence

The improvements to date and the future direction of travel are consistent with national guidance and best practice including:

- 'NHS Five Year Forward View' (NHS England, October 2014)
- 'Safe, compassionate care for frail older people using an integrated care pathway: practical guidance for commissioners, providers and nursing, medical and allied health professional leaders' (NHS England, February 2014)
- 'Making our health & care systems fit for an aging population' (The Kings Fund, March 2014)
- 'Specialists in out-of-hospital settings' (The Kings Fund, October 2014)
- 'Support. Stay. Save. Care & Support of People with Dementia in their own homes' (Alzheimer's Society, Jan 2011)
- Studies by Trappes-Lomax et al. (2002) & Lymbery (2002)

Further information

There is further information about our analysis of the available evidence and our proposals relating to this fact-sheet in a PDF document entitled 'Community Bedded Care', which is the relevant extract of the 'Pre Consultation Business Case Stage 4', (pages 53 to 65). It is available online at www.joinedupcare.org.uk

Details of our proposals are contained in the consultation document. We encourage individuals and organisations who intend to respond to the consultation to read the consultation document thoroughly before completing the consultation questionnaire.