

From: Staffsccgscomms (NHS MIDLANDS AND LANCASHIRE COMMISSIONING SUPPORT UNIT)

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Sent: 10 May 2019 09:10

Subject: Creation of a single Strategic Commissioning Organisation (sSCO) for NHS services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

I'm writing to inform you about our proposal to create a single Strategic Commissioning Organisation (sSCO) for NHS services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and to invite you to participate in the consultation process throughout May and early June 2019.

You may already be aware that over the last few years the six NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) with responsibility for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have chosen to develop a closer working relationship. We now have a single leadership team. We also hold our Governing Body meetings 'in common' so that any strategic decisions affecting the whole population can be made.

We are now proposing to formalise this closer working relationship through the creation of a single CCG, which will have commissioning responsibility for the entirety of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from April 2020.

The six CCGs proposing to create the new CCG are:

- NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG
- NHS Cannock Chase CCG
- NHS East Staffordshire CCG
- NHS North Staffordshire CCG
- NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG
- NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG

An application was made by these CCGs to NHS England in December 2018, confirming our intention to develop and operate as a single organisation. The new SCO would be responsible for the decision-making and buying of all health and care services for more than 1.1 million residents in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

We believe that a single CCG would have many advantages, including simpler decision-making processes, less replication of work, and a reduction in waste. It would also allow us to focus on the financial performance of the region as a whole, rather than spending our time balancing multiple budgets in smaller areas.

The SCO would give GPs more control over how money is spent in their local areas, and allow for more opportunities to share best practices amongst clinicians through strengthening the North, South East and South West Divisions. We also expect the patient experience to improve as the public will have access to more joined-up services and better access to those services.

Consultation is taking place with the Governing Bodies of the six CCGs and with more than 150 GP surgeries in the region. The next phase of the consultation will happen throughout May 2019, and will gather views from a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- patients and the wider general public
- patient participation groups
- staff across the local health and social care sector
- hospitals and NHS Trusts across the county
- community and voluntary organisations
- Staffordshire County Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Health and Wellbeing Boards.

We would very much welcome your contribution to the consultation, both as a participant and through encouraging others within your network to share their views with us.

We are especially keen to receive feedback from hard-to-reach groups and communities. We believe that listening to a diverse range of county residents is of enormous value. The views of residents who face barriers to their participation (due to social, economic, literacy and accessibility factors) are especially important in helping us shape future health and social care in a way that serves the needs of all local resident populations.

Participants in the consultation will be asked whether they support our proposal to create a Single Commissioning Organisation to oversee the entire county, or if they would prefer to keep the current system. They will also get the opportunity to express any feedback they have regarding how the CCGs currently operate and how commissioning will work in future.

We'll be explaining our proposal in detail on the CCGs' websites* and in the Consultation Document that we'll make available through GP surgeries across the county.

The consultation begins on Thursday 9 May 2019 and runs until midnight on Sunday 9 June 2019. There are many different ways to share your views with us:

- Complete the feedback form online on our website
- Email us: mlcsu.involvement@nhs.net
- Call us on 01782 298 002
- Attend our public meetings (all 7-8pm, with arrival from 6.30pm):
 - 22 May, Medical Institute, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7NY
 - 23 May, The George Hotel, Lichfield, WS13 6PR
 - 28 May, St. Edwards Academy, Leek ST13 8DN
 - 29 May, Entrust, Stafford ST16 3TH
 - 4 June, Aquarius Ballroom, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 1BT
 - 5 June, Pirelli Stadium, Burton DE13 0BH
- To book a place on any of the events, visit <https://nhs.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=155731895704>
- Write to us at Freepost Plus RTAA-XTHA-LGCC, Communications, Heron House, 120 Grove Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 4LX

We will also be sharing information about the Consultation through our public Twitter (www.twitter.com/StaffsCCGs) and Facebook (www.fb.com/StaffsCCGs) accounts. We'd be grateful if you would follow both of these and Share/Retweet our messages.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

* The CCGs' websites are:

www.northstaffsccg.nhs.uk

www.stokeccg.nhs.uk

www.eaststaffsccg.nhs.uk

www.sesandspccg.nhs.uk

www.staffordsurroundsccg.nhs.uk

www.cannockchaseccg.nhs.uk