

Local Members' Interest

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**The Journey towards an Integrated Care System**

**Recommendation/s**

Consider the information provided and comment on the progress and priorities being made by health and care partners on the journey to an Integrated Care System (ICS).

Consider the information provided comment on the developments of a Strategic Commissioner function.

Provide feedback on the direction of travel and the proposal to becoming an Integrated Care System.

**Report of Name** Tracey Shewan Director of Communications and Corporate Services, Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups

**Summary**

**Purpose of the report**

To provide an update on the progress towards creating an integrated care system (ICS).

**Report**

**Background**

1. In February 2021, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care presented a 'white paper': *Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*.
2. At the heart of the legislative proposals, is the goal of joined up care for everyone in England. Instead of working independently every part of the NHS, public health and social care system should continue to seek out ways to connect, communicate and collaborate so that the health and care needs of people are met. Healthy, fulfilled, independent and longer lives for the people of England will require health and care services, local government, NHS bodies, and others to work ever more closely together. Different professions, organisations, services and sectors will work with common purpose and in partnership. This will be especially important when we seek to focus on the people and communities that are most in need of support.

3. The proposals seek to establish a statutory ICS in each ICS area. These will be made up of an ICS NHS Body and a separate ICS Health and Care Partnership, bringing together the NHS, local government and partners. The ICS NHS body will be responsible for the day to day running of the ICS, while the ICS Health and Care Partnership will bring together systems to support integration and develop a plan to address the systems' health, public health, and social care needs. Both bodies will need to draw on the experience and expertise of front-line staff across health and social care. ICSs will be accountable for outcomes of the health of the population.
4. The creation of a merged CCG is a necessary step on the journey towards the creation of an ICS from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. In February 2021, the GP membership of the six Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs voted in agreement for the proposal to merge.

### **Our Integrated Care Approach**

5. Together We're Better is the local partnership, working together to transform health and care for the people of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
6. It is one of 44 Sustainability Transformation Partnerships (STPs) in England. It brings together local NHS organisations, with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent local authorities, the voluntary sector and the two Healthwatch organisations.
7. The Together We're Better Partnership has an agreed vision: Working with you to make Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent the healthiest places to live and work:
  - Support you to stay well and independent by focusing on preventing ill-health and to self-care
  - Treat you as a person, not as a set of health conditions or social care needs
  - Make sure we are there when you need us, at the right time and in the right place
  - Make health and care support available closer to your home
  - Give mental health equal priority to physical health and wellbeing
  - Make sure your experience of health and care is the best it can be.
8. NHS England published the **Long Term Plan** (LTP) in January 2019, which set out a phased development of improvements that all health and care systems are expected to deliver over the following five years.
9. Together We're Better responded to the priorities outlined by developing a **Five Year Delivery Plan**, with commitments and priorities for our population.
10. The majority of these priorities remain as first written, however the COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency in delivering on these actions, focussing on the system to make rapid changes and improvements.
11. This ICS Development Plan is linked to the **Five Year Delivery Plan** and includes the following structural commitments:
  - Becoming an **Integrated Care System** by April 2021 that is clinically and professionally led, focused on system-wide sustainable improvement.

- Working together across health and social care to streamline the commissioning approach and to develop a system-wide **Strategic Commissioner**, which will align, and for some services, will be integrated with social care commissioning.
- Providers and commissioners will work together across primary, community and mental health services, including health and care professionals, along with voluntary and independent sector, to promote behavioural change and deliver service transformation co-ordinated by **Integrated Care Partnerships**.
- Strengthening primary and community services through developing sustainable **Primary Care Networks and the** implementation of integrated care teams.

### **CCG Merger is a step along the way**

12. Following a voting process held with all 147 practices overseen by the LMC the six CCGs of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent voted in favour of a merger, with 84% in favour and 94% turnout. The results were declared on February 3rd and represent a significant turnaround from the previous merger vote held in September 2019.

13. The CCGs met with NHS England & Improvement on the 16th February 2021 who approved the request from the NHSEI Regional office for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs to apply to merge in year on October 1st 2021.

14. In accordance with the Local Authority Health Scrutiny Guidance 2014, formal consultation is not required as this is a proposal to 'establish or dissolve or vary the constitution of a CCG'

15. A detailed Communications and Engagement Plan has been agreed by NHSEI and will guide how we engage with and inform our key stakeholders of our journey to becoming a single CCG. As this process is about creating a brand new, single Strategic Commissioner for the county and city, as part of our development to an Integrated care System there are a wide variety of stakeholders with whom we need to engage. This engagement is required to varying degrees, as determined by NHSE&I guidance and legal / statutory requirements.

16. Following discussions with NHSEI, as we are still in a pandemic, the important focus is on engagement with our stakeholders. This will meet the requirement required for the application to merge, without causing any undue distress on members of the public.

17. A document will be sent to stakeholders, outlining our proposals and asking if they wish to comment. This is not seeking agreement but for us to take into account any comments they have.

The stakeholder engagement document is provided as Appendix 1.

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### **Appendices/Background papers**

Stakeholder engagement on the creation of a Strategic Commissioning Organisation