

HEALTH SERVICES CHANGES IN SHROPSHIRE - UPDATE FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

1. West Mercia Cluster

The West Mercia Cluster was formed in June 2011, and Eamonn Kelly has been appointed as Chief Executive. The Executive Team consists of Leigh Griffin, Deputy Chief Executive, Brian Hansford, Director of Finance, Jill Freer, Director of Nursing and Paul Maubach Director of Commissioning Development, for the Cluster, comprised of the PCTs of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire County. An appointment to the post of Medical Director is awaited.

The creation of Clusters is designed to support and enable individual PCTs, who will retain statutory responsibilities and fully functioning Boards until the formal abolition of PCTs - scheduled for April 2013. They will also help us all to manage the process of transition to new operating arrangements, whether these be clinically-led commissioning consortia, commissioning support units, the new public health service or outposts of the National Commissioning Board.

2. GP Consortium Transition Board

The GP Consortium Transition Board, Chaired by Caron Morton, came into effect on the 1 April 2011.

Board members are:-

Dr Bill Gowans, Vice Chair and GP Partner at Mytton Oak Surgery, North Shropshire rep

Dr Liz Fennelly, GP Partner at Belvidere Medical Practice, North Shropshire rep (portfolio holder for Quality and Safety)

Dr Catherine Beanland, GP Partner at Ludlow Portcullis Surgery, South Shropshire rep (portfolio holder for Local Authority)

Dr Sal Riding, GP Partner at Church Stretton Medical Practice, South Shropshire rep (portfolio holder for GP Activity)

Dr Julian Povey, GP Partner at Pontesbury Medical Practice, Shrewsbury and Atcham rep (portfolio holder for Commissioning)

Dr Steve James – Lead GP of Shropshire Walk-In Health Centre (portfolio holder for finance)

The Shropshire County Commissioning Consortium has been granted 'pathfinder' status. Pathfinders are chosen because they have shown leadership, planning and joint work with local authorities in preparing for their new role for the NHS.

The Transition Board has highlighted that there are three key priorities in the short term:

- Urgent care
- Outpatient neurology
- Long term conditions, specifically COPD

Shropshire GPs will be especially concentrating on developing a referral support service, which helps to ensure that patients have smooth and effective pathways when they need to move in between care from their GP to care in hospital and back. There will also be a development programme for GPs, to prepare them for their new commissioning roles.

3. Shropshire's Community Health Services Trust

The new Community Trust has been given the final go ahead by the Department of Health and the Trust is now working in shadow form until legal establishment on 1 July 2011.

The new Trust will specialise in community services and will play a very important role in the heart of local communities. It will be one of only 16 community trusts in the country and have a great opportunity to be at the forefront of modern out of hospital services whilst retaining all of the traditional values of the NHS as they work towards Foundation Trust status.