

Joint HOSC Progress Report on Neighbourhood Working – August 2016

Good progress has been made in developing the Neighbourhood models of care for Telford and Wrekin and for Shropshire. These programmes are led by the Chief Executives of the respective local authorities, working with Public Health, social care, Shropshire Community Services and the respective CCG. The two programmes are different (reflecting their different histories and local circumstances) but have the following common elements:

- A focus on community resilience – which aims to support local people to stay healthy and which is independent of the main statutory agencies
- Local health promotion initiatives
- Joint working with the local voluntary sector
- GP practices increasingly working together and becoming the building blocks for community based teams
- Care services and community services working with General Practice to provide a consistent level of non-hospital based services.
- The identification of some services that, for reasons of scale, would need to be available across a number groupings of practices
- Secondary care clinicians providing support to out of hospital services

Both models identify community resilience as a key element of their work. This recognises that Statutory agencies need to change their approach to maintaining wellbeing in the community by valuing community centred approaches and the work of local groups and the third sector. Statutory agencies have a role in facilitating and occasionally leading change.

Both models also build on collaborative work between GP practices to create Neighbourhood Care Teams (the description varies slightly between Shropshire and Telford), which bring together health and social care; physical and mental health professionals; and statutory and non-statutory services. These teams have a prime aim of preventing unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitating discharge – particularly amongst the frail elderly. Both models also help meet the needs of people at the end of life and the increasing number of people with long term conditions, such as diabetes.

The development of neighbourhood working is time consuming but essential if the assumptions that lie behind the Future Fit hospital reconfiguration are to be met.