Who’s Who

In the last edition of the newsletter we introduced you to the GPs who sit on the Governing Body of Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). GPs are at the heart of decision making but the Governing Body also includes senior officers, practice managers and a secondary care lead as well as two lay members responsible for Audit and Governance and Patient and Public Involvement. (pictured below)

Developing Local Dementia services

Carers are playing a key role in helping to develop what dementia services should look like in the future. Building on the work that was done with carers and health and social care professionals last year, a draft dementia strategy has now been developed. The main objectives set out within the strategy are:

- Raising awareness and understanding
- Early diagnosis and support
- Living well with dementia

There are a number of initiatives and projects detailed in the strategy which will aim to achieve these objectives, Feedback from members of the public has also been used to shape the final version following a recent consultation.

Cannock Chase Doctors Approved to Lead NHS Services Locally

In order to capture the experience and clinical leadership of GPs who do not sit on the Governing Body, the CCG has a number of local GPs who support commissioning areas. These include Dr Murray Campbell for mental health, Dr Gary Free for planned care and pathology and Dr Paul Ballinger for diabetes.

Months of hard work and preparation came to fruition this month as Cannock Chase CCG was finally authorized as an NHS statutory body. The NHS Commissioning Board made its decision following a rigorous assessment process which assured them the organization was safe and effective. Assessors particularly noted that the CCG has provided evidence of good practice in almost all areas and demonstrated strong levels of engagement with stakeholders and patients. The report also highlights that the CCGs management of monitoring the quality of services is maturing well.
Redesigning Cancer Care with Patients and Carers

Patients and carers have been working with healthcare professionals to redesign local cancer services. A number of workshops have been held since January to get feedback from patients and carers about their experience of services relating to lung, breast and prostate or bladder cancer and to ask what worked and what could have been improved. Key themes that emerged from the events included the need for better communication at times and to treat people holistically, not just the cancer. Patients and their families then attended a series of workshops with health professionals, including consultants in cancer care, and together they mapped out where there seemed to be gaps in current services and what a good service should look like from both a clinical and patient experience perspective. The work is part of a long-term project that Cannock Chase CCG is working on in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support. The aim is to ensure that the residents of Cannock Chase are receiving the best possible services relating to cancer care.

Join the Conversation and Have Your Say on Health

Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be responsible for making decisions about your health care services from April 2013. But to make sure the services provided meet the needs of the local population, the CCG wants to have a ‘conversation’ with every one of the 132,000 residents under the banner of Conversation Staffordshire. Conversation Staffordshire is your chance to take part in an open discussion about your services and the way they are delivered. It is about real people talking about the issues that matter to them and the CCG listening to what people have to say. There are a number of ways you can get involved in Conversation Staffordshire, which started with a public event on Tuesday 5th March at the Civic Offices in Cannock.

To give us your views you could also complete a questionnaire by visiting the website at www.staffordshirelink.org.uk or you could email the CCG directly by emailing cannockccg.feedback@northstaffs.nhs.uk You could also join the conversation via Facebook or Twitter /ConversationStaffordshire @ConvoStaffs

To request a copy of the questionnaire or for more information please email enquiries@staffordshirelink.staffs.com or phone 01785 887992.

Review of COPD Services

The CCG is working with local clinicians from the hospital, community and GP practices to review current Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) services. COPD is a respiratory condition that describes lung damage that is gradual in onset and results in progressive limitation to airflow. If you would like to give us your feedback via a questionnaire, please contact us at cannockccg.feedback@northstaffs.nhs.uk or phone 01785 221040.

Any feedback whether positive or negative is very helpful in making sure we commission the right services for our patients.
Governing Body Update

A packed room of residents from across Cannock Chase attended the second meeting of the CCG’s Governing Body. Councillors, members of the public and members of community groups were among those who filled the audience to hear an update from the CCG. Members of the public were informed that significant performance improvements had been made by Stafford Hospital and in particular around referral to treatment times. The Director of Quality also explained that the outcomes of a District Nursing review in North Staffordshire would be used to inform a piece of work in the South.

To monitor the quality of services with local providers, the Governing Body agreed that an increase in clinicians and Lay Members undertaking quality and safety visits would allow more proactive work in relation to patient experience and complaints.

Members of the public were asked to leave their contact details if they would like to be involved.

In response to a petition signed by 565 members of campaign group 38 degrees, the Governing Body was able to say that all the areas raised had already been included in the CCG constitution.

The Governing Body noted that although current projections would suggest a financial deficit of £1.6 million by the end of March 2013, the CCG is still planning to break even due to a number of actions being taken.

The next meeting of the Governing Body to be held in public will take place from 3.15pm on Thursday 4th April at the Chase Gold Club on Pottal Pool Lane.

To book a place, please contact Katie Woods on 01785 221043.

Raising awareness at Festive Fair

Involving residents in the planning, development and delivery of local health services sits at the heart of Cannock Chase CCG. We are committed to listening to the residents of Cannock Chase and also understand that many people have been left confused by the latest changes to the NHS. To try and raise awareness about the CCG and its responsibilities, the CCG has attended a number of community events including community forums and speaking to residents at the Christmas Tree Festival held by St Mary’s Church.

We are also developing a local membership scheme, which people or community organisations can join to be kept up to date with what is happening to health services across Cannock Chase.

In addition to GP practice groups, we have recruited Patient Leads in Cannock and Rugeley to link in to existing community groups and we are looking to recruit additional leads for the Hednesford, Heath Hayes and Norton Canes and Cheslylyn Hay and Great Wyley areas.

If you would like to find out more or if you are a member of a local community group and would like to receive regular information about health services and the work the CCG is doing, please contact us by emailing cannockccg.feedback@northstaffs.nhs.uk or by telephone on 01785 221046.

Help Us Plan Emergency Care

A project is being developed to look at the best way of delivering emergency care services for residents of Cannock Chase and the CCG would welcome input from patients and members of the public.

The project will look at services such as Minor Injury Units and intermediate care services as well as a service for same-day assessment and treatment.

If you would like to know more please contact us at cannockccg.feedback@northstaffs.nhs.uk or phone 01785 221056.
Changes to Patient Transport Services

Following consultation, improvements have been made to the quality standards for Patient Transport which will be implemented from 1st August 2013. Overall, feedback received advised that the timeframes were too long. The LINKs representative on the procurement panel was involved in agreeing the final standards that were included in the Service Specification. The changes are:

- Collection from home prior to appointments will reduce from 90 minutes to 60 minutes.
- Arrival prior to appointments will reduce from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Collection from clinic following an appointment will reduce from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Time on a vehicle for patients travelling up to 15 miles will reduce from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Time on a vehicle for patients travelling over 15 miles has remained the same at 90 minutes. This is because the geographical area being covered by the provider (the whole of Staffordshire) would make it unrealistic to expect anything less.
- Arrival at clinic for renal patients will remain the same at 20 minutes. Again it was felt that reducing this was unrealistic.
- Collection from the renal unit following treatment will reduce from 45 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Time on a vehicle for renal patients will reduce as follows:
  - Within 5 miles; from 30 minutes to 20 minutes
  - Within 5 – 15 miles; from 45 minutes to 30 minutes
  - Within 15 – 30 miles; from 60 minutes to 45 minutes
  - From 30 miles for all Staffordshire; will remain at 90 minutes for the reasons above.

Staffordshire Cancer and End of Life Programme

NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support on an exciting new Programme looking at Cancer and End of Life care. The Programme is looking to recruit two Non-Executive Board members to sit on the Programme Board and Delivery Groups to ensure we maintain a patient and public focus.

The aim of the Programme is to transform Cancer and End of Life care across Staffordshire by working with patients/public/carers and professionals to ensure that future services and outcomes are designed and developed around the patients and include local aspirations. It will ensure that patient care will be commissioned and managed through a single provider, which will be held accountable for the entire patient experience and clinical outcome.

It will also enable a transformation in service design and delivery focused on the patient and not on individual providers.

Remuneration for this post will be £7,822 per annum.

This post is for a two year period with a review following year one.

For an informal discussion about these roles, please contact David Crosby on 01264 343808 or Andy Donald on 07778 492458.

(This conversation must take place before the closing date and will play no part in the selection process.)

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon on Friday 22nd March 2013

Application forms can be obtained from Karen Evans,
Project Manager 01543 509768 or 07860593880 or 0775837610.