

Transforming community services in Wiltshire

Following November's announcement that Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been appointed 'preferred provider' for community-based health services in Wiltshire, the Transforming Community Services project has moved into transition mode. Detailed workstream plans are now agreed between Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Community Health Services.

There are detailed project plans for a whole range of component parts, including finance, human resources, patient safety, quality and governance, estates and facilities, and communications and engagement.

The plans have been produced as a result of close work between the relevant specialists at the organisations involved in the Transforming Community Services project, and are being co-ordinated into one main project plan by the TCS project manager on the joint Project Support Team. The project plan includes key milestones and delivery dates, and progress will then be monitored by the Transforming Community Services Project Overview Group, meeting fortnightly.

As part of the transition process, each workstream is now headed up by a Great Western Hospitals member of staff, with significant support from a deputy counterpart based in Wiltshire Community Health Services or NHS Wiltshire.

From January 2011, each workstream lead will be required to produce a weekly summary of progress, in order that the Project Team can be 100% certain that the project is being delivered according to plan.

Chief Executive
of Great Western
Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust
Lyn Hill-Tout shares
her enthusiasm for
the Transforming
Community
Services
partnership:



Lyn Hill-Tout

I was delighted when I was told that we were the 'preferred provider' for Wiltshire Community Health Services. My enthusiasm for bringing together our two services is because, as one organisation, we can provide better treatment and care for patients, better support for carers and reduce duplication and cost. We regard this as a partnership - it's not a 'takeover' which I know some people have expressed concern about. We are genuinely committed to building on the skills, experience and success of WCHS and GWH staff. We need to meet the increasing health demands, improve what we do and at the same time take out costs. In order to meet future health demands the NHS has to deliver £20 billion efficiency savings for re-investment in improving quality. I think we all know, deep down, that the NHS has to change and difficult decisions will have to be made. We will ensure that staff and stakeholders are involved in shaping services in the future.

When the management responsibility transfers on 1 April 2011, there won't be big visible changes. Our priority is to ensure the continued delivery of safe, high quality services and a smooth transfer for staff. For the first few months we will be concentrating on getting to know WCHS and the services it provides. Then, together, WCHS staff and GWH staff can identify how they can integrate services for the benefit of patients and carers. Ultimately, that's what Transforming Community Services is about and I look forward to the months and years ahead when we can really provide seamless care to our patients.



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Top five facts about Transforming Community Services in Wiltshire

- The partnership between Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with Wiltshire Community Health Services will provide NHS care to 750,000 people.
- Patients and services users of the combined organisation will come from an area spreading from Somerset to Oxfordshire
- It will employ nearly 5,000 NHS staff, from midwives and nurses to catering staff and porters, as well as therapists, doctors, dentists and scientists
- The combined maternity services of Wiltshire Community Health Services and Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will deliver about 9,000 babies every year
- Community and acute hospitals in both organisations have an excellent record on cleanliness and infection, according to inspection results published by Care Quality Commission.

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