



## Press Release

6 February 2017

# West Surrey Stroke Care Services consultation launched

The public are being asked to share their views on plans to improve stroke services in West Surrey. A 12-week public consultation is being launched on Monday, 6 February 2017 by NHS Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS North West Surrey CCG, involving a series of public events and a variety of opportunities for people to feedback views before decisions are made about next steps. The consultation ends on the 30 April 2017.

Stroke is a leading cause of adult disability and the fourth single leading cause of death in the UK. Over the past two years, the NHS across Surrey, working with national clinical experts and local people, many of whom have been affected by stroke, has reviewed stroke services and health outcomes in depth to understand what is working well and where improvement is needed. It was found that rates of death following a stroke were higher in Surrey than other parts of the country and experience of life after stroke could be better.

National clinical experts recommended that hospital care for patients suffering a stroke be consolidated into specialist units. This would ensure enough specialist staff are available to provide the intensive care and treatment required seven days a week, which we know saves lives and reduces disability.

We want to improve hospital care for patients by consolidating specialist stroke services at two hospital sites in West Surrey; at Frimley Park Hospital and St. Peter's Hospital. At both sites this would include a hyperacute stroke unit (intensive care given during the first three days after a stroke) alongside an acute stroke unit (care given after the first three days and usually up to about seven days). The Royal Surrey County Hospital would no longer provide specialist stroke care. Instead, patients from the Guildford and Waverley area would be taken to Frimley Park Hospital or St Peter's Hospital, whichever is nearest.

Similarly, we want to improve specialist stroke rehabilitation for patients who do not need to stay in the acute hospital but who are not quite well enough to go home. Changing how this is provided will enable patients to receive more intensive therapy, according to their needs, and therefore go home earlier. In order to make best use of specialist skills, we want to consolidate the number of hospitals providing this specialist care. This will include Farnham Hospital, with other possible options including Ashford Hospital, Milford Community Hospital and Woking Community Hospital.

The public are now being asked to consider these improvements set out within the consultation plan.

Dr David Eyre-Brook, Chair of Guildford and Waverley CCG which is leading the consultation, said: “These plans offer the opportunity to deliver seven day stroke services with the right number of highly skilled staff which we know saves lives and reduces disability. Other improvements are planned and include more patients leaving hospital earlier with intensive rehabilitation in their own homes, more psychological support and all patients being reviewed six months after the stroke occurred.”

Dr Charlotte Canniff, Chair of North West Surrey CCG added: “These plans have been developed by doctors and nurses already providing stroke services and help to ensure we make best use of our specialist staff. This is not about saving money, but about investing more money in the whole care pathway. Stroke can have devastating impacts on patients, carers and their families; we want to achieve better outcomes for all and plan to devote more funding towards this.”

There will be a number of opportunities for the public to meet clinical specialists during the consultation to find out more about why these changes are proposed. Visits to local stroke support groups and other interested groups can also be arranged and group organisers are encouraged to contact the CCG to make arrangements – telephone 01483 405450 or email [gwccg.consultations@nhs.net](mailto:gwccg.consultations@nhs.net)

For more details visit the Stroke consultation webpage at [www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk)

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## Notes for Editors:

Copies of the consultation booklet explaining more about the plans are available alongside a shorter summary at [www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk). Printed copies of the booklet and summary can be provided on request by emailing [gwccg.consultations@nhs.net](mailto:gwccg.consultations@nhs.net).

Meetings and drop-in sessions are also being held at a number of venues during the consultation period. The public are welcome to come and meet us to discuss our plans and provide feedback. Dates of forthcoming can be accessed at [www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk).

The best way to have your say is using our online survey at:  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StrokeConsultationWestSurrey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StrokeConsultationWestSurrey)

Alternatively, complete the survey by hand on the back page of this booklet, tear it off and post it to us free at: NHS G&W CCG

You can also email us your views us at: [gwccg.consultations@nhs.net](mailto:gwccg.consultations@nhs.net)

The CCGs will weigh up all the evidence and feedback and think about how to address any concerns that people raise.

The criteria that the CCGs will use when deciding about next steps are:

- Potential for improved outcomes for our population that suffer a stroke
- Access and travel times for the largest number of people
- Cost effectiveness
- Potential for timely delivery
- General fit with overall strategy to improve health care

**Hyper acute services** provide expert specialist clinical assessment, rapid imaging and the ability to deliver intravenous thrombolysis 24/7, up to 72 hours after admission. These services may be in a specialist Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) or as a dedicated area on a combined stroke unit. At least 600 stroke patient admissions per year may be required to provide sufficient patient volumes to make a hyper acute stroke service clinically sustainable, and to maintain expertise. People with acute stroke will receive an early multidisciplinary assessment, including a swallow screening and, for those that continue to need it, have prompt access to high-quality in-patient stroke care.

**Acute stroke care** immediately follows the hyper-acute phase, usually after first 72 hours following admission. Acute stroke care services provide continuing specialist day and night

care, with daily multidisciplinary care, continued access to stroke trained consultant care, access to physiological monitoring and access to urgent imaging as required. In-hospital rehabilitation should begin immediately after a person has had a stroke. Rehabilitation services should continue for as long as required, to ensure the best recovery and the minimisation of any disabilities though these

are likely to extend beyond time in-hospital. Rehabilitation goals should be agreed between the multidisciplinary team and stroke patients and carers.



**North West Surrey**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

**Early supported discharge (ESD)** enables appropriate stroke survivors to leave hospital 'early' through the provision of intensive rehabilitation in the community at a similar level to the care provided in hospital. An ESD team of nurses, therapists, doctors and social care staff work collaboratively as a team and with patient and families, providing intensive rehabilitation at home for up to six weeks, thereby reducing the risk of re-admission into hospital for stroke related problems and increasing independence and quality of life with support the carer and family.

### **NHS Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group**

NHS Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG) comprises 21 GP practices, known as 'Member Practices'. From 1 April, 2013, NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG became the NHS organisation responsible for the commissioning of hospital and community health services, medicines management and enhanced primary care services for the residents of Guildford and Waverley. It serves a population of over 200,000 and has an allocation of £245m (2016/17).

The vision of NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG is:

*'To ensure that innovative, quality driven, cost effective health and social care is in place. We will deliver services which reflect the needs of the local population and improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Guildford and Waverley.'*

The responsibilities of NHS Guildford and Waverley CCG are to commission:

- Urgent and emergency care
- Elective hospitals treatment
- Community care health services
- Other community-based services
- Rehabilitation services
- Maternity and newborn services
- Children's healthcare services
- Services for people with learning disabilities
- Mental health services

**For further information, please contact Jo Lang, Communications Manager,  
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**Telephone: 01483 405426**

**[www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.guildfordandwaverleyccg.nhs.uk)**