

# Transforming Community Services

A chance for you to have your say

## Public Consultation

Monday 4 October - Friday 29 October 2010

Do you want this in another format or language, or do you want someone to go through it with you?

Ring us on 01922 618358. We will do our best to get it into a format or language that suits you and that you can understand as quickly as possible.

### What Transforming Community Services Means for Your NHS

This document introduces Transforming Community Services to you. It covers four main important subjects:

1. What are community health services and what is Transforming Community Services all about?
2. What does this mean to me as a service user?
3. What happens next?
4. How can I have my say?

1. **What are community health services and what is Transforming Community Services all about?**  
Community health services in Walsall are currently managed by Walsall Community Health, part of NHS Walsall. They include a wide range of health care services provided for patients in their own homes, in local health centres and from a variety of community bases as well as many children's health services, health visitors, health promotion (for example, 'quit smoking' services), physiotherapy, district nurses, specialist nurses, rehabilitation, speech and language therapy and much more.

Transforming Community Services is about bringing together a number of your community health services so that you get better co-ordinated, more efficient and high quality care. Our plan is to bring these different services together under the same management, which will mean that improvements to services can be made more quickly, more easily and more efficiently.

Work has been going on for some time in Walsall and with our key health service partners in the Black Country to enable this service change to happen. Transforming Community Services, a national initiative, provides us with the opportunity to speed things up and manage the process more effectively on your behalf.

## 2. What does this mean to me as a service user?

These changes will take place over the next 12 months but they are unlikely to bring about any immediate changes to where or when you receive your care as this will still be provided by existing teams of staff within the NHS. By bringing these healthcare organisations together, our aim is to ensure that you will receive the best possible patient experience – moving you smoothly through the different stages of treatment and care.

As local people and our service users, your views and advice in helping us to shape our services have always been very important to us and this will continue. As we change, we will be asking for your support in ensuring the services we offer continue to meet your needs.

## 3. What happens next?

We have been working with our local NHS partner organisations (Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust and Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust) as well as GPs, Walsall Council and other groups, including those representing patients and the public, to look at how each community service could be most effectively managed and delivered.

We have come up with the following proposals:

- Bring together the majority of community health services with the services currently provided by Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust into one organisation. This will mean that for you as patients, service provision is co-ordinated ensuring that you can move smoothly through all areas of your treatment and care.
- To ensure that we deliver specialist local care for people with learning disabilities, we propose to transfer the management of these services to Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust. As specialists in their field, we think that they are best placed to co-ordinate and manage this level of local care.
- We are working with other partners in the Black Country to co-ordinate Community Dental Services into a new service which will provide specialist dental support. This will cover Birmingham and the Black Country and will be managed by the proposed NHS Community Foundation Trust based in Birmingham. This will not affect any of the services you get from your NHS dentist as they will continue to be provided locally.
- We are also considering plans for the future of the nurse-led nurse primary care practice at Blakenall Health Centre. We will publish more details of these plans as they become clearer.

## 4. How can I have my say?

Your views matter to us, and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to comment on these proposals. Please let us have your feedback by Friday 29 October.

**Online:** You can contact us via the NHS Walsall website – [www.walsall.nhs.uk/Have\\_your\\_say/Feedback](http://www.walsall.nhs.uk/Have_your_say/Feedback)

**By email:** You can email - [consultations@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:consultations@walsall.nhs.uk)

**By telephone:** You can ring one of our Customer Services representatives on **01922 618358** and we will write down what you tell us over the phone.

**By freepost:** Fill in the comments box at the end of this document and then post back to us. Just fold the back cover over so that the FREEPOST address is showing, fold it into three, fasten down the ends and put it in the post (no stamp needed).

More information about the organisations involved in Transforming Community Services can be found on the websites of our partner organisations:

Walsall Community Health: [www.walsallcommunityhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.walsallcommunityhealth.nhs.uk)

Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust: [www.walsalhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.walsalhospitals.nhs.uk)

Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care Foundation Trust: [www.smhft.nhs.uk](http://www.smhft.nhs.uk)

## Transforming Community Services

### Feedback form

Name .....

Address .....

..... postcode .....

Email .....

Telephone Number ..... Date of birth .....

(You don't have to provide this information if you don't want to, but it would help us to understand which issues are of particular interest to different sections of our community)

Your comment / question:

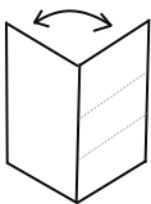
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Fold back the back cover so this page is showing.



Then fold into three so the address is showing.

Finally, sellotape or stick down the edges.

**Mail it to us free of charge.**

