

**TRANSFORMING CARE TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP – BRIEFING NOTE TO THE WALSALL HEALTH
AND WELL BEING BOARD CHAIR 11TH DECEMBER 2017**

The Transforming Care Together (TCT) partnership combines Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

For some time the three trusts have been working together to develop proposals for sustainable services across our 3 organisations.

Our approach has been one of integration with multiple clinically led workstreams including a workstream specifically for Black Country wide Mental Health and a workstream for Learning Disabilities.

TCT has also held public engagement events including several in the Walsall Area to engage service users, carers and stakeholders in the development of the proposals.

There are clear benefits to developing Mental Health services at a Black Country level and this aligns with plans at an STP level.

The integrated trust will improve access and support to mental health care across the Black Country, including primary care.

It will integrate physical and mental health care through training and new care pathways (the way a patient moves through the health and care system), and will offer a wide range of learning disability services across Birmingham and the Black Country.

Having more efficient corporate support services will help to release money that can be invested directly in patient care. The integrated trust will provide the best value for money option to address the challenges.

In September 2017 all 3 boards approved the Full Business Case for the three organisations coming together as one Trust and is now in the next stages of working with NHSI to finalise the proposal.

More detail including the business case for TCT and presentations on the proposals for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Childrens Service can be found at <https://transformingcaretogether.org/>

Further work is ongoing around the final proposal for TCT which has delayed the planned date for 3 organisations coming together. This was planned to be the 1st December 2017. This further work includes making sure we address the concerns of a group of staff which have been recently raised.

At this stage there is no planned date for TCT to happen until all work including addressing any concerns is completed. Once this work is completed a revised date will be set.

In response to specific questions raised by the Health and Well Being Chair – the responses are as below

Q1) does the dwmht board agree to the merger?

The board of DWMH approved the Full Business Case for TCT in September 2017. Subject to TCT being able to complete the further work required and ensuring as part of this that any concerns of staff are addressed the Board still support this.

2) does the board feel confident that the prudence in finances by the dwmht will have their resources protected after this merger?

DWMHT has consistently delivered on its financial requirements but this is not necessarily a guide for the future. The increasing demand and acuity of patients and the ongoing need to deliver our services in a more efficient way makes meeting our financial requirements more challenging. One of the benefits of TCT is the ability to combine back office functions to ensure we are maximising the amount of money spent on front line patient care.

3) does the dwmht feel confident that the make up of the new integrated board will reflect an absolute priority for mental health when this new board will be responsible for social care, dental care and other services?

The integrated board will have representation from non executives of both Black Country Partnership and DWMH to ensure continuity of knowledge. The Medical Director for Mental Health and the Operations Director for Mental Health will also be part of the integrated board. We continue to review this and discussions are ongoing about this issue.

4) how will this merger affect the rebuild plan for bloxwich mental hospital. When will this £8m plan be realised?

DWMH continue to progress a business case for the re provision of Bloxwich Hospital Inpatient services at the Dorothy Pattison Hospital site. We are currently running an engagement process to capture patients, carers and staff views on this proposal which will inform that case. The £8m capital investment required is included as part of the TCT Business Case.

5) what date is planned by what time this merger issue will be resolved bearing in mind the uncertainty created both for patients and staff.?

All the TCT partners are committed to completing the further work in an appropriate timescale. We are also committed to ensuring we address any concerns that have been raised before setting a revised date for TCT to go ahead. These discussions are ongoing.

For patients and carers services continue as currently provided by the 3 Trusts. We recognise the uncertainty for staff and are taking action to address that

6) there is a lot of talk by central government about the increase in funding for mental health. The Kings fund highlights that 40% of trusts have had a cut in funding over the last 4 years. What is the position for walsall.?

We have a positive relationship with Walsall Commissioners in developing Mental Health Services including during recent years significant investment in CAMHS. Negotiations between the CCG and the Trust for 18/19 funding are currently ongoing.

The Chief Executive of DWMH is happy to attend a future H&WB to update further on these proposals or to answer any questions that may arise from this briefing note.

