

The 5 Communities Plan has been approved to move to the next phase after public feedback was incorporated into the draft proposals

We spent the summer touring Crawley, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and East Grinstead talking to patients, health professionals, volunteers, carers, families, young people, older people - and everyone in between - about the future of our local NHS. We needed your help to plan for providing better access to modern GP and community services of the future and to discuss our early ideas and practical options to transform our NHS over the next 30 years.

At five public meetings, GPs leading the two Clinical Commissioning Groups in the north of West Sussex spoke to more than 300 people and answered more than 100 questions on the draft 5 Communities Plan on anything from patient transport; health and social care services working closer together – closer to you; plans to merge or relocate GP Practices and extend the skills of the staff so they can provide more of different types of care; and doing much more closer to home instead of at the bigger acute trusts.

We also hosted many smaller events including information stalls at local leisure centres and supermarkets, as well as group talks with community and voluntary organisations. In addition to the face-to-face work, we also received more than 299 completed copies of our 5 Communities survey and many more letters sent directly to the CCG or published via local newspapers. All this has made a big difference to the 5 Communities Plan so far – so thank you.

Feedback to the proposals under the 5 Communities Plan was mainly consistent across the patch and overall you supported the aspirations for our local NHS as set out in the 5 Communities Plan, with the caveat that services must continue to be of high quality and regularly reviewed. It's also clear that public opinion is in favour of better use of voluntary and community organisations to support the NHS and importantly awareness of such services. You can read a report of each of our event conversations or a full evaluation of the first phase of the project engagement with the public at www.5communitieswestsussex.nhs.uk (under the Resources tab).

Approval from the NHS board

The 5 Communities Plans and the entirety of the public feedback was presented to the Governing Bodies of both NHS Crawley CCG and NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG at the end of 2014. Both boards approved both plans and gave the go ahead for the next steps.

Next steps

All of your feedback is now being used as part of our ongoing planning process for the future of local NHS services. The next stage of our plans, which will feature more detail on the specific local options, types of services, locations and budget will be published in the Spring/Summer (2015) for further consideration from the public. Headlines suggest that the NHS will have to take tough decisions about reorganizing how it delivers care so we can continue to provide for the needs of our communities. Our 5 Communities Plan should help us do that and we will be asking for your help to rank what is most important to you as patients when using NHS services, so you can shape our decisions about the future. Please look out for more details online or at an event near you soon. In the meantime, thank you for taking the time to give

your views and please do not miss the opportunity of viewing what you and others told us about our plans in the attached report and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require a hard copy of either document.

With Regards

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