

# Integrating the Health and Care System in Devon

Members have asked for information on integration and the development of an 'Accountable Care System' in Devon. This is now more commonly known nationally as an ***Integrated Care System***, so that's the term we're using.

We are pleased to provide this Briefing, which highlights some of the benefits of working as part of the Devon STP, as well as more detail on how we are developing a new Integrated Care System for Devon.

## Developments as part of the Devon STP

Since December 2016, partners in the health and care system across Devon have been working with a shared purpose to create a clinically and financially sustainable health and care system that will improve the health, wellbeing and care of the population.

The STP has been a positive catalyst for Devon. It has helped leaders build a collaborative and system approach across the NHS and local government.

As a result, Devon is in a stronger position in which to further integrate services for the benefit of patients and service users. And, the collective work by leaders has helped tackle the historical challenges we have faced. As a result, financial and service performance has improved considerably.

The framework of the STP has helped the NHS in Devon to move away from the 'Success Regime' – as the latest assessment by NHS England and NHS Improvement, rates the Devon STP as one of 14 health and care systems "making real progress".

## What is an Integrated Care System?

Firstly, it's important to explain what an Integrated Care System is, and more importantly what it is not.

At its simplest, an Integrated Care System is a way of working, collaboratively, between a range of health and social care organisations, to help improve people's health.

It's when organisations work together in a shared way; sharing budgets, staff and resources, where appropriate, to best meet people's needs.

What it's not, and Members need assurance of this, is a creation of a new organisation, or some body seen as being undemocratic, or 'privatisation by the back door'.

It is important to draw that distinction, because there is criticism at a national level that creating new commissioning organisations can lead to a place where people's care needs come second to the needs of those undemocratic organisations. And that's not a place that Devon has any intention of going.

So what is it, and why is it better?

By working collaboratively with a range of organisations, Integrated Care Systems aim to help people stay healthy, tackling the causes of illness and wider factors that affect health such as education and housing.

Commissioners and providers of acute hospital and community services, primary care, mental health and social care will work increasingly in partnership to plan, finance and run services.

From the patient or service users' point of view, they will see a more joined-up health and social care service that works for them. Their care, however simple or complex it is, is planned. And the Council, the CCGs, the hospitals, the GPs, are all working together to that same plan.

It makes common sense to work together. It's not just that there's a statutory obligation for health and social care organisations to do so.

And it's not a new concept. Integration of care is something that we in Devon have been providing for some years, with front line health and social care staff working together in the same teams. So, an Integrated Care System builds on the solid progress that's already established here in Torbay.

The NHS Constitution and Local Authority Constitution will remain at the heart of everything we do, meaning anyone can receive high-quality NHS care, free at the point of access, whenever they need it.

People will still see a GP when they need it and there will still be hospital care. Social care will continue to operate as it does now but integration will mean services are increasingly organised around the needs of individuals and not organisational boundaries.

Working in partnership across a wide range of services, people will be helped to stay healthy, receive more support and treatment at home rather than having to go into hospital if it's not necessary, and see their GP more quickly. If people do need to be admitted to hospital, they will be supported to get home quickly with the support they need.

With NHS and Local Authorities now working more closely together than ever, we should give our doctors, nurses and social care staff the best chance of success by enhancing our partnership working.

## What happens next as part of developing an Integrated Care System in Devon?

We have set out clear intentions for how we will be arranging ourselves as part of a new Integrated Care System in Devon from April 2018 in shadow form. This will consist of:

- An **integrated strategic commissioner for health and care**, including plans for taking on primary care and specialised commissioning.
- Four **local care partnerships** (LCPs) will work within capitated budgets and look at how outcomes are met, services and resources are planned and used for specific local populations across Devon.
- Mental health services will be placed on an equal footing as physical health and ensure that specialist mental health services become more integrated within primary and secondary care. To support this, commissioners and all providers will be working in a more joined up way with each other through a mental health care partnership and with the place based local care partnerships. This has been nationally recognised.
- A system-wide approach to **shared corporate services**, workforce and estate as well as other key enablers.

As part of the preparations for moving to a new Integrated Care System, the two CCGs have aligned, with Governing Bodies in common and a joint executive team.

Local care partnerships are emerging at pace in each of the four areas, bringing together not only NHS and Local Authority partners, but other key stakeholders in local systems. These are the **One Northern Devon** group, the **Eastern Leadership Forum**, the **South Devon and Torbay System Development Board**, and the **Taking Change Forward in Plymouth and Western Devon** group).

Nationally, there were eight areas of the country identified to become Integrated Care Systems, where health and care organisations voluntarily came together to provide integrated services for a defined population.

Devon has expressed an interest in becoming part of the next wave of Integrated Care Systems nationally, and more information will follow in due course.

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