

## PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until  
2 July 2014

# Help us to secure the future of NHS care in Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex

Help us to plan for the future of health services in our local area. Three public events will be held across the north of West Sussex to gain public and patient views as we work together on a long term plan to ensure our NHS for future generations.

You are warmly invited to attend the 5 Communities Plan launch event on:

- > Wednesday 16 July 2014, 1330 - 1700 at **St Andrews Community Centre in Burgess Hill**
- > Tuesday 29 July 2014, 0930 - 1300 at the **Charis Centre in West Green Drive, Crawley**
- > Thursday 31 July 2014, 1730 - 2100 at the **Drill Hall in Horsham**

Local GPs and expert health managers will be sharing early thinking for the 5 Communities Plan and inviting your comments to help shape the way forward for our local NHS services in GP Practices and the community.

We need your help to test our thinking and see if the proposals will work for you, your family and future populations for our five local communities (Crawley, Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Horsham and the surrounding areas). Please make some time for this important event and tell us what you think to help us develop these plans for our future.

As our population continues to grow and people live longer, demand on health and social care services continues to rise. More people have increasingly complex conditions and the cost of health care is going up. NHS Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG are leading a plan to address this huge challenge by strengthening services in our communities working in close partnership with local councils and other NHS organisations.

The plan analyses the current and future needs of our population as it ages and continues to grow. It also reviews current GP services and community care (including both Horsham and Crawley hospitals, as well as the care provided to you in your own home), but not acute care (at the larger hospitals), hospital mental health care or specialist care such as cancer or stroke). Going forward we will use it to help design the future of health care across our five communities.

Dr Minesh Patel, lead GP for NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG, said: "The NHS must change. We want to improve the quality and safety of care and learn the lessons from the Francis Report to improve services. To do this with a flat level of funding and tightening budgets we must change the

way we deliver and use NHS care. If we really want to keep our NHS for future generations let's *act now, together.*"

One example of the actions within the 5 Communities Plan is the NHS working closely with local GP surgeries and Horsham District Council to explore the possibility of new primary care facilities with joined up health and wellbeing services within the new development at Broadbridge Heath. This would be likely to begin within a year, while other larger-scale projects in the plan could take up to five years of detailed planning before we can initiate.

The CCGs and NHS England want to enable GP practices to work together across our patch and ensure the services they provide meet both the current and future needs of our swiftly growing population more sustainably. A new national plan for GP services due in the autumn of 2014 will be core to this work and we will work with all of our GPs to develop proactive and holistic local services that make the most of community pharmacies alongside preventative and wellbeing services.

NHS Crawley and NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex are two of the first CCGs in the country to develop such a plan to address the huge challenges facing the NHS and we are working closely with key partners including NHS England, NHS Property Services - the property arm of the NHS, borough and county councils and many more.

Dr Amit Bhargava, lead GP for NHS Crawley CCG added: "We have discussed publically many times over the past two years about our joint-plan to improve, increase and strengthen local care and services, and we are committed to being open and honest about the opportunities and also the tough challenges facing us and our patients. We have been developing and testing our intentions on the 5 Communities Plan that includes Crawley, we will continue to work closely with our populations to design a better future for our health service.

Another example of forward thinking in our plan is a review and revamp of services provided at Crawley Hospital. Dr Bhargava continued: "Crawley Hospital is hugely important to our town, although we have continued to invest in and it we know it could do so much more then it currently does. For example, at the moment the Urgent Treatment Centre provides care to more than 50,000 people a year. Our ambition is that as much of urgent care for illness and injury to be dealt with at the Urgent Treatment Centre safely and efficiently as possible, without the patients needing to go to A&E at Redhill. However, those with severe trauma or life threatening conditions will get the safest care at more specialist hospitals, these see a larger number of patients and have a higher level of skill and facilities."

"Full A&E and intensive care services and consultant led maternity services with special care facilities for new-borns will remain in specialist hospitals, but we do have plans to expand the range of services that we can offer here and deliver care closer to home. The fuller lists of some of our plans are in the SSDP document that we will continue to co-design with your input."

Currently 52 per cent of Crawley's NHS budget and 54 per cent of Horsham and Mid Sussex's NHS budget is spent on caring for people after they fall ill or their health worsens. The 5 Communities Plan looks at investing in more community based care to prevent patients from

getting sicker; support them to stay healthy and manage their health through self-care; and to remain independent in their own homes when possible.

ENDS

## Notes for editors

### **Our new way forward: in summary -**

- modernise primary care and community services to meet the changes in our communities (in numbers and types of people and housing) beyond 2014
- give greater emphasis to the prevention of ill health and living well/healthily
- continue to use new and different providers of care to ensure we get the best services, including the third sector (voluntary organisations) working better together
- be open and realistic about the financial challenges the NHS has to operate in for the foreseeable future
- use all available appropriate buildings and discard those we do not need (because the NHS still has to cover the costs of empty space and currently we spend £1.8 million on empty rooms and wards which could be invested in direct patient care).
- ensure all facilities are used at least 85 per cent of every week to prevent waste
- address the overdue maintenance needs of our NHS buildings and address the potential (or lack of) to develop those properties in the future
- save a minimum of 20 per cent of the amount we currently spend on bricks and mortar, every year to invest in direct patient care.

---

**Working together to deliver your NHS for our communities** Led by local GPs and health professionals, NHS Crawley and NHS Horsham and Mid Sussex clinical commissioning groups (ccgs) work to ensure local people can access the best possible NHS health care and are supported to stay healthy. We buy, plan and check local NHS care and services [www.horshamandmidsussexccg.nhs.uk](http://www.horshamandmidsussexccg.nhs.uk) and [www.crawleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.crawleyccg.nhs.uk)

[twitter.com/HorshMidSusxCCG](https://twitter.com/HorshMidSusxCCG)

[twitter.com/CrawleyCCG](https://twitter.com/CrawleyCCG)

[facebook.com/NHSHorshamandMidSussexCCG](https://facebook.com/NHSHorshamandMidSussexCCG)

[facebook.com/NHSCrawleyCCG](https://facebook.com/NHSCrawleyCCG)

[youtube.com/channel](https://youtube.com/channel)

[youtube.com/channel](https://youtube.com/channel)

### **For communications queries please contact:**

- Carla Dow [carladow@nhs.net](mailto:carladow@nhs.net) 01293 600300 ext 4278
- Martin Sawden [martin.sawden@nhs.net](mailto:martin.sawden@nhs.net) 01293 600300 ext 3546

