

HEALTHY WESTON

Joining up services for better care in the Weston area



This is a summary of the Healthy Weston vision for North Somerset, published October 2017
For the full document, please visit www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/healthyweston or call 01275 546721.

Healthy Weston is part of the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (BNSSG STP). The partnership is made up of 15 local health and care organisations working together to improve services.

INTRODUCTION

We have an opportunity to develop a bright future for health and care services in Weston-super-Mare, Worle, Winscombe and the surrounding areas. We want to make sure people have the best possible health and care services suitable for their needs, now and in the future.

We would like you to help us make the right decisions to achieve this, by looking at the options available to us and identifying the choices we need to make so that local people continue to receive high quality, sustainable services for the future.

WHY WE NEED TO ACT

The number of people living in Weston and nearby villages is rising every year. This includes growing numbers of older people and young families as well as an increasing number of vulnerable people, for example, homeless people and people with mental health problems. This means that the demands on local health and care services are changing and we need to take steps to respond to this so that services continue to meet the health needs of the local population.

NHS services in Weston and North Somerset are also under significant financial pressure, so it's important that we design a system that works better for patients, while using all NHS resources in the best way possible.

This builds on the feedback we received earlier this year, when we asked you what you wanted from services at Weston General Hospital. This showed us that we need to think about the whole range of services including health and social care, community services, mental health and voluntary services as well as those services provided in Weston General Hospital and to consider how more people can be cared for at home or in the community, where this is appropriate.

It's therefore time to look more closely at how services are organised and delivered, to consider how all services could work together to provide better joined up care, and also to keep an open mind about how some services could be delivered differently in the future. We want patients to get the best possible care and treatment in the right place, at the right time, and provide services which are affordable and offer good value for money so that they can be sustained in the long-term. Over the course of Summer 2017 we have worked closely with a wide range of local partners to develop a vision we call *'Healthy Weston'*.

HEALTHY WESTON AIMS TO:

- Support local people to stay well
- Look after people at home, or in the community, and help to keep them out of hospital
- Ensure those who do go to hospital are able to go home faster, with community support as required
- Develop stronger GP services alongside wider community services
- Join up health and social care services to treat and support patients more effectively
- Reduce the gap between levels of health for poorer and wealthier people
- Deliver better health and social care services to the people who need them most, such as frail and older people, children, pregnant women and vulnerable people including those with mental health needs, learning difficulties or drug and alcohol addictions
- Secure a strong and vibrant future for Weston General Hospital.

DELIVERING THE CHANGES NEEDED

GP PRACTICES WORKING TOGETHER

Over 90% of contact with the NHS is through local GP practices. Rising demand for health care means that we need to strengthen these services, particularly given the significant new housing developments in the Weston area.

We want to support GP practices to work more closely and more effectively with each other, and with other health, community and care services. This could mean that individual GP practices pool their resources and expertise to provide better care to patients and a broader range of services. For example, if a GP or Practice Nurse has particular skills in caring for patients with long-term conditions (e.g. diabetes, respiratory or heart disease) then they will be able to see patients across the local area, rather than only patients registered with their practice. This changed way of working will also make it easier to organise services more effectively in response to different people's needs.

For some people, seeing the same GP on a regular basis is very important, and this continuity can help them to avoid having to go to hospital. For others – such as those who visit their GP infrequently – being able to fit their appointment around other commitments is more important.

We are also working with GPs and our partners, including North Somerset Council, to ensure that our primary care buildings are fit for purpose. This includes looking at how best to provide services for the new communities at Weston Villages and exploring opportunities to improve access to services in the town centre through bringing services together under one roof.

WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY AS A 'CARE CAMPUS'

At the heart of the Healthy Weston vision is an expanded role for Weston General Hospital at the centre of a 'Care Campus', providing more services in a local community setting. This will mean health and social care professionals including GPs, hospital, mental health, social care staff and volunteers working more closely together to meet the needs of the local population.

We want to see Weston become a recognised centre of excellence for key services that local people need. Such as caring for older people living with frailty and delivering planned surgery such as hip and knee replacements locally.

Our vision for the Weston Hospital 'Care Campus' includes:

Day case treatments

– services such as intravenous (IV) therapy and blood transfusions, reducing the need for overnight hospital admission.



Diagnostic services –

rapid access to diagnostic tests such as MRIs, CT scans and endoscopy. Access to specialist mental health advice including crisis support and talking therapies.

Children's Services –

ensuring we use our resources as effectively as possible to deliver both physical and mental health care services for local children.



Long-term conditions

clinics – for example providing care and support for people with diabetes, high blood pressure, and lung conditions.



Social services – rapid access for people needing immediate support and to reduce the need for hospital admission.



Cancer services – such as chemotherapy so that more people can be treated closer to home wherever possible.



AN ACUTE HOSPITAL AT WESTON THAT IS SUSTAINABLE FOR THE FUTURE

We are committed to ensuring the long-term future of Weston General Hospital. In order to develop the 'Care Campus' at Weston, to ensure the hospital provides the services that local people need most, and to address the financial and clinical challenges Weston is facing, the way in which hospital services are provided will need to change. We are therefore working with neighbouring hospitals in Bristol and Somerset to identify the services that Weston is best placed to provide, and which services may be more effectively provided by one of the other hospitals.

Together with Weston Area Health NHS Trust, which runs Weston Hospital, we want to make sure people in North Somerset have access to safe, high quality, sustainable urgent and emergency care services, as close to home as possible.

The Healthy Weston work will also address the long term future of a number of services at the hospital, such as A&E and maternity. Currently, Weston's A&E is closed temporarily overnight between 10pm and 8am. This is due to the long-standing challenge of recruiting the right number of permanent doctors needed to make sure it can run the service safely at night. The Healthy Weston work will include looking at alternative ways of offering care locally to patients traditionally seen in A&E, and also looking at the types of urgent and emergency services best provided by Weston Hospital or by a neighbouring hospital.

The number of women choosing to have their babies at the local midwife-led maternity service at Weston Hospital is low. This needs to be reviewed to consider how to provide birthing facilities that are sustainable and make best use of NHS resources. We will work with neighbouring hospitals in Bristol and Somerset to look at how maternity services can best be provided to women in Weston and the surrounding areas in the future.

HELP US GET THIS RIGHT

We need your input to help get these services right. Your feedback will make a difference in how future services are designed to provide joined up services for better care in the Weston area. People currently working in health and social care in these communities as well as organisations who provide services are also closely involved, to make sure their voices are heard too. No decisions will be taken until all ideas and feedback has been considered. Once we have heard your views we plan to publish our proposals for how services might change in the late Spring of 2018.

Here's how you can take part:

Visit www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/healthyweston to read the latest updates.

Book your place at one of our upcoming public meetings in various locations in Weston and the surrounding areas during November 2017 to January 2018. Visit www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/healthyweston for more information and to register your interest in attending.

Fill in an online survey at www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/healthyweston

Email northsomerset.feedback@nhs.net with the words 'Subscribe to updates on Healthy Weston' in the subject line to receive email updates.



Telephone:
01275 546721



Write to:
North Somerset CCG, Post Point 11,
Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 6FW



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www.facebook.com/nsccg



Twitter:
@NSomersetCCG

The full vision for Healthy Weston is available at www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/healthyweston or by request. For further copies of this summary, or if you need it in another format, please contact us.