



## CONSULTATION ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Newsletter no. 1

10 October 2016

### Welcome from Sir Neil McKay...

Welcome to the first edition of our regular electronic newsletter for local stakeholders and members of the public who wish to be kept informed about the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation.

The consultation, which was launched in West, North and East Cumbria on 26<sup>th</sup> September, covers a number of possible service changes including changes to maternity services, children's services, community hospital inpatient beds, emergency and acute care and stroke services. It also covers some recent temporary changes in emergency surgery, trauma and orthopaedic services.

When I launched the consultation, with colleagues from all parts of the local NHS, I said the health and social care system in this part of the country faces a number of major challenges including difficulty in attracting doctors, nurses, paramedics and other staff to live and work in Cumbria, hospital stays that are longer than they need to be, hospital admissions that are unnecessary, a significant NHS overspend and some services which are described by the Care Quality Commission as being either inadequate or in need of improvement.

I said that throughout my career in the NHS I have had to deal with a number of difficult and challenging issues but the issues we face in West, North and East Cumbria are the toughest I have ever faced.

I sense there is a strong feeling locally that in recent years, there has been a lot of talk but not enough action. Our focus now is upon action. The *Healthcare for the Future* consultation document - available on the consultation website at [www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk) - explains how some services could change in our communities and in our hospitals and it offers a number options for change.

I would urge everybody in West, North and East Cumbria to read the consultation document and to complete the consultation questionnaire. We need to hear your views.

NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group has the legal responsibility for undertaking this consultation which will run until just before Christmas. In the spring of 2017 the NHS will consider the consultation responses and the Governing Body of NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group - deliberating in partnership with other local NHS organisations and the NHS Northern England Clinical Senate - will then take a number of decisions on the matters detailed in the consultation document. The decision making process will be assured by NHS England.

Finally, and disappointingly, I have to report that during the first few days of the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation some vile and unacceptable online abuse, including racial abuse, was directed towards one of our local clinical consultants. I abhor and condemn all hate crime including written and verbal abuse. I particularly deplore racial abuse. The matter has now been reported to the police and formally recorded as a hate incident.

I hope you will join with me in condemning all such abusive comments and ensuring that over the coming weeks and months the debate about the future of health services in West, North and East Cumbria is conducted in a civilised manner and with respect for everyone whatever their views.



Sir Neil McKay  
Chair of the West, North and East Cumbria Success Regime

\*\*\*

MORE INFORMATION - If you want to know more about the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation you can find it by visiting our website at [www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk) and clicking the “current consultation” tab. You will then find a tab for “publications library”. On this page you can access a number of technical documents, briefing notes and other background material on the optional changes outlined in the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation document.

\*\*\*

HAVE YOUR SAY - More and more people are now having their say about the issues described in the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation document. You can send us your views by completing the online questionnaire or by completing a hard copy of the questionnaire and sending it to us by post. You can complete the online questionnaire by clicking the “how to have your say” tab on our website at [www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk) or you can post your comments to us at... “Freepost CUMBRIA NHS CONSULTATION”. There is no need to use a stamp. Please ensure that you write the address on a single line without any other addressing details. The address must be written using upper and lower case letters as above.

\*\*\*

CONSULTATION MEETINGS - We are holding a number of public meetings around West, North and East Cumbria to enable members of the public to hear more about the options for change and to express their views. The full list of meetings can be found on our website. The immediate upcoming meetings are at:

- Silloth, 12<sup>th</sup> October - 6.30pm to 8.30pm - Solway Technology Community College, Liddell Street, CA7 4DD
- Millom, 13<sup>th</sup> October - 1pm to 3pm - Guide Hall, St Georges Road, LA18 4DD
- Appleby, 13<sup>th</sup> October - 7pm to 9pm - Public Hall, Appleby Town Council, Boroughate near Moot Hall, CA16 6XB
- Carlisle, 18<sup>th</sup> October - 1pm to 3pm - Ballroom, Crown & Mitre Hotel, 4 English Street, CA3 8HZ
- Whitehaven, 19<sup>th</sup> October - 1pm to 3pm - United Reform Church, James Street, CA28 7HZ
- Maryport, 19<sup>th</sup> October - 6.30pm to 8.30pm - The Wave Centre, Irish Street, CA15 8AD
- Penrith, 25<sup>th</sup> October - 1pm to 3pm - Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street, CA11 7QY
- Wigton, 25<sup>th</sup> October - 7pm to 9pm - The Market Hall, Church Street, CA7 9AA
- Kirkby Stephen, 26<sup>th</sup> October - 1pm to 3pm - Masonic Hall, North Road, CA17 4RH
- Alston, 26<sup>th</sup> October - 6.30pm to 8.30pm - Samuel Kings School, Church Road, CA9 3QU

\*\*\*

UPDATES - Please keep visiting our website for further updates about the public consultation.

***THANK YOU.***