

CONSULTATION ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Newsletter no. 2

25 October 2016

Welcome...

Welcome to the second edition of the regular electronic newsletter for people interested in the NHS *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation.

Since the first edition of this newsletter, two weeks ago, we've held six public meetings on the consultation. These meetings have been attended by well over 500 people in total. The points raised during these public meetings have all been recorded and are being fed into the consultation process where they will be assessed and analysed by independent consultants.

We have more public meetings coming up over the next couple of weeks including meetings in...

- Kirkby Stephen on 26th October (1pm to 3pm at the Masonic Hall, North Road, CA17 4RH)
- Alston on 26th October (6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Samuel Kings School, Church Road, CA9 3QU)
- Workington on 7th November (6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Carnegie Theatre, Finkle Street, CA14 2BD)
- Whitehaven on 8th November (6.30pm to 8.30pm - United Reform Church, James Street, CA28 7HZ)
- Cockermouth on 9th November (6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Eco Centre, Cockermouth School, Castlegate Drive, CA13 9HF).

If you would like to see a full list of the planned public meetings please visit our website at www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk

A question that has been asked on a number of occasions during these public meetings concerns Cumbria County Council. People have asked, if the Council and the NHS are committed to working together in partnership why isn't social care represented at these public meetings? The answer is that health and social care professionals in West, North and East Cumbria are strongly committed to working together and developing fully integrated health and care services, indeed we are already working together to this end. However, the *Healthcare for the Future* consultation is not about integrated

working, it is about a number of specific, potential changes to NHS services which is why it is being led by the NHS.

Consultation responses building up

Consultation responses are now being sent to us in significant numbers. We would like to thank everybody who has responded so far and encourage anybody who has not yet responded to do so in the next few weeks. The consultation questionnaire can be completed online at www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk or you can complete the questionnaire at the back of any printed version of the consultation document. You can post your comments to us at... "Freepost CUMBRIA NHS CONSULTATION". There is no need to use a stamp. Printed copies of the consultation document have been circulated to hospitals, GP practices, libraries and other venues around West, North and East Cumbria. The consultation remains open until 19th December.

A number of people have asked whether they need to complete the public consultation questionnaire if they offered a written response during the recent pre-consultation engagement period. Responses submitted during the pre-consultation engagement period were taken into account in developing the various options described in the consultation document. What the NHS heard from patients, public and staff during the engagement period will be considered again when the NHS makes decisions about any service changes in the spring of 2017. It is important to remember, however, that during the engagement period the NHS was seeking views on its emerging thinking. At that stage it had not developed the options which are now the subject of consultation. We would therefore urge everybody who wishes to express a view on the consultation options to complete the consultation questionnaire, whether or not they submitted a written response during the pre-consultation engagement period.

Statement against racism

In the last edition of the consultation newsletter we reported 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. Since then the consultation's Stakeholder Advisory Group - chaired by the Venerable Richard Pratt, Archdeacon of West Cumberland and Sue Stevenson, Chief Operations Officer at Healthwatch Cumbria - has passed a motion against racism recognising that while "feelings run strongly" about the issues being consulted upon it is important that we all "listen well and speak wisely" because "all those involved in these discussion - all 'sides' - want the best for West, North and East, Cumbria." We would like to thank the Stakeholder Advisory Group for this forthright statement against abuse and we would particularly like to thank John Holland and the Friends of Brampton Hospital who - following news of the racist comments - wrote to us expressing their abhorrence of racial or other slurs on NHS personnel or indeed anyone else.

More information

You can find more information about the *Healthcare for the Future* public consultation by visiting our website at www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk

You can find an EasyRead version of the consultation document and a large text version of the document by clicking on the Current Consultation tab and then on the Consultation Document tab.

Under the Current Consultation tab you will also find a tab for the 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.

Please keep an eye on our website for further news updates and... **THANK YOU FOR READING THIS NEWSLETTER.**