



Issue #6 · December 2015

### Winter resilience

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has established two System Leadership working groups aimed at supporting the resilience, through the coming winter and beyond, of the West Sussex Health and Social Care system.

The groups, comprised of senior representatives from West Sussex NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, elected members and officers from the County Council, held their first meetings earlier this December, and will continue to meet on a monthly basis into the New Year. Their work is in line with the HWB's [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) and the work of the CCGs' System Resilience Groups.

The main areas for on-going work identified in the December meetings concerned increasing the availability of community beds, establishing an agreed definition of "medically ready/fit for discharge" and a new model for integrated hospital discharge assessors, support for best practice for end of life care in care homes, ensuring the maximum effectiveness of packages of care across all West Sussex NHS Trusts, and ensuring that arrangements are in place to support stability in staffing levels.

The groups' progress will be reported to the HWB at its February meeting.

### Survey on the future of the NHS in Coastal West Sussex

The Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been running a survey since September about future arrangements for primary and urgent care services in its area, and more than 5,800 people have taken part. Residents who have not yet participated can do so by following [this link](#), or by returning the postal survey

Facing increasing demand for services, people living with more complex health needs, and difficulties with recruitment, the CCG wants to find additional ways to provide patients with the best possible health services, and will be evaluating all of the responses over the coming weeks in order that this information can feed this into their work.

### Signposting to health services

By directing seasonal illness sufferers to the correct services, we can help to make sure GPs are available for people with more urgent health problems, and in turn that can help to save the specialist teams at A&Es for saving lives.

Online information on getting the right care is available separately for residents in [Coastal West Sussex](#), and for those living in [Horsham, Mid Sussex, Crawley and East Surrey](#).

Advice for common ailments is available from high street pharmacists. Furthermore, it is important that residents be aware of the NHS 111 service as an alternative to 999.

## Arrangements for West Sussex Better Care Fund (BCF) returns to NHS England

The aim of the BCF is to encourage the integration of health and social care systems, for genuine transformation to meet the combined challenges of the demands of a growing older population and reducing budgets in West Sussex. In 2015/16 the West Sussex BCF budget was £58m.

All BCF areas are required to submit quarterly returns to NHS England, and report against six metrics which have been set nationally:

1. *Non-elective admissions*: reducing unplanned hospital admissions of more than one day.
2. *Residential admissions*: reducing the number of permanent admissions of people over 65 into care homes.
3. *Reablement*: increasing the proportion of people over 65 who are still at home 91 days after discharge into reablement/rehabilitation services.
4. *Delayed transfers of care (DTOC)*: decreasing the number of DTOC.
5. *Patient/service user experience*: improving the ASCOF 1 Social Care Quality of Life measurement for patients and service users.
6. *Dementia*: increasing the diagnosis rate for people with dementia, as a percentage of the estimated prevalence of people with dementia.

The timeline in place for BCF returns in West Sussex is as follows:

1. The BCF coordinator, in liaison with the Joint Commissioning Strategic Group, compiles the return for the previous quarter.
2. The CCGs and WSCC agree the return.
3. The return is submitted to NHS England and shared with HWB members.
4. NHS England publishes the BCF Data Collection and Performance Reports, approximately two months after receiving submissions from BCF areas.
  - o Please follow [this link](#) to see the reports, and for more information about the BCF.

## Family Nurse Partnership

Health commentators have defended the [Family Nurse Partnership \(FNP\)](#), following a [critical report](#) in the medical journal *The Lancet*. The FNP serves 150 vulnerable pregnant teenagers in West Sussex, offering them intensive one-to-one support with specialist nurses from pregnancy to the baby's second birthday.

The report concluded that the FNP wasn't cost-effective based on a lack of evidence for short-term improvements on primary clinical outcomes, such as smoking cessation. However, there were secondary benefits, including improvements to the language development of the babies at 24 months, and to the mothers' social support, quality of relationships and intentions to breastfeed.

A [report in the Guardian](#) explored the issue, interviewing Izzy Harrison, a teenager who has benefitted from the FNP in West Sussex. She said: "There was a lot of pressure on me and I didn't know what to do. The fact that I was going to have somebody for two years was really nice – I knew if I needed anything that there was somebody there to help me."

Izzy, now a proud young mother, has returned to college where she is studying law and health and social care, after which she hopes to become a teacher. "The FNP helped me to continue my life and I realised that not everything had to stop because I had a baby."

### Upcoming Events

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.** formal meeting of the HWB.

**14<sup>th</sup> April (TBC).** West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board event – agenda TBC.

### Comments?

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### Links

- [West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board.](#)
- [Chairman's Blog.](#)
- [West Sussex Wellbeing.](#)
- [The Better Care Fund in West Sussex.](#)
- [Coastal West Sussex CCG](#)
- [Crawley CCG](#)
- [Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG](#)