

Welcome to the September edition of Partnership Update, Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership's monthly newsletter for health and social care colleagues and our community.

We hope by now that you have heard about the new public survey which we launched on 21 August to inform the develop of the Northamptonshire Health, Care and Wellbeing Plan – but if you haven't it's not too late to have your say!

This is our local response to the national NHS Long Term Plan, which sets out ambitions to make sure everyone has the best start in life, receives world-class care for major health problems and gets the support they need to age well. Our own Northamptonshire Health, Care and Wellbeing Plan will serve as this county's single unified strategy for the future of local health and social care over the next few years.

By participating in our survey you can give us your opinions on our priorities and aims for health and care, tell us what is important to you and share your views on the areas you think we should be focusing on. Your feedback will help us to shape our draft plan, which will be submitted to NHS England at the end of September with the final document due to be published in November.

Whether you work in healthcare or local government, you're a regular user of NHS and social care services or you only see your GP once a year, your opinions matter – so please visit www.northamptonshirehcp.co.uk/join-the-conversation today and make sure your voice is heard.

Also in this edition of Partnership Update we bring you all the latest news and developments from across our county, because even as we make plans for the future we continue to drive improvements to health and care services in Northamptonshire every day through partnership working. We hope you find it a useful and informative read.



Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership Board

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH, CARE AND WELLBEING PLAN

Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership

**We're planning for the future of health and care in Northamptonshire.
Join the conversation and make sure your voice is heard.**

Visit:

**www.northamptonshirehcp.co.uk/join-the-conversation
to complete the online survey**





County social prescribing service takes a step forward

Proposals to bring a county-wide social prescribing service to Northamptonshire have moved a step closer after business plans received unanimous local support.

Social prescribing is a way of helping people to manage their own mental and physical health and wellbeing by referring them to non-medical services in their local community.

Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership is working to develop a social prescribing model for the whole county, and the governing bodies of Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Groups voted overwhelmingly to support NHCP's business case at their latest meeting in August. They were also unanimous in their agreement that social prescribing should be a top priority for CCG funding.

NHCP has already secured agreement in principle for funding from the Government's Life Chances Fund for the proposed social prescribing service – and now negotiations will continue to unlock this funding and get the project off the ground.

The business case for social prescribing was developed through engagement with the public, potential service providers and health and care professionals at three community workshops held around the county in June.

A full report detailing outcomes from the events will be published soon, but some of the key common themes which emerged are summarised opposite.

Listening to your feedback

- Social prescribing work is already happening in pockets around Northamptonshire – it's important to learn from what is being done well
- Social prescribing should become 'business as usual' for the county and not just another project
- The service should invest in the infrastructure of social prescribing, including those providing the services, to ensure there's capacity to meet demand
- The recruitment of link workers to Primary Care Networks (see article below) should be used as a springboard for the county-wide service
- There must be clarity around funding, expectations of providers, routes of referral and the approach to measuring impact as part of the project plan
- Accessibility of services must be properly considered – including transport for those living in rural areas
- Good communication will be crucial to the success of Northamptonshire's social prescribing service



Big Ideas

This work responds to the 'Engagement' category of our community's Big Ideas for the future of local health and care
northamptonshirehcp.co.uk/big-ideas

Successful recruitment fills all link worker vacancies

A campaign to recruit social prescribing link workers to Northamptonshire's Primary Care Networks has proved a big success, with all advertised vacancies set to be filled.

The recruitment, led by Northamptonshire CCGs and the Local Workforce Advisory Board (LWAB) in partnership with Best of Both Worlds, was launched in July and attracted plenty of media attention – including from BBC Look East, BBC Radio Northampton and GP Online.

A total of 27 applicants were shortlisted to attend recruitment events, where they got the chance to meet the county's Primary Care Network (PCN) teams as well as being interviewed for the roles. This resulted in the successful selection of new link workers to all of the PCNs in Northamptonshire who advertised for the position, including four posts provided in partnership with Age UK.

Tom Howseman, clinical director for one of the recruiting PCNs, said: "The recruitment campaign has made a tangible difference to the ability of our PCN to recruit to the role of social prescribing link worker, and created a template for how I think Northamptonshire's primary care staff should be recruited. At a time when recruitment is such a headache, this approach genuinely helped us all."

The successful candidates will now undertake a countywide induction programme funded by our county's Primary Care Workforce Group.

Eight sessions will bring all the new link workers together, support their development and facilitate 'buddying' to ensure those more experienced can support those that are



Dr Tom Howseman



Chris Oakes

newer to these patient-facing roles.

Chris Oakes, LWAB chair and joint workforce lead for NHCP, said: "The number and quality of candidates that came forward demonstrates the far-reaching effect Best of Both Worlds can have and that when we take a system-wide approach to initiatives such as recruitment, we can be much more impactful than working in isolation."

The link worker role is central to the success of social prescribing, as they are responsible for creating and maintaining the link between the prescribed services and the person benefiting from the prescription.

The successful recruitment will be followed up with further recruitment to support the launch of NHCP's county-wide social prescribing service.

Spotlight... preparing for winter

Laying new pathways towards better care this winter

Our urgent and emergency care services come under particular pressure in winter. Colder weather and seasonal illnesses like flu put frail older people and those with long-term illnesses especially at risk of becoming acutely unwell at this time of year. This pressure affects every part of Northamptonshire's NHS and social care services, and that's why NHCP's urgent and emergency care team is taking action to plan for the demands of the winter ahead.

This time last year we set out a series of positive actions to tackle the winter challenge (you can read more about this [here](#)) and ensure more people can access the care they need in the right place at the right time. This year, NHCP's urgent and emergency care 'pathways' group is building on this good work by launching a new delivery plan setting out the key areas of focus for winter 2019/20. These include:

- **Direct booking of GP appointments through 111** – this winter, NHS 111 call handlers will be able to directly book people into appointments with Northamptonshire GPs in cases where this is appropriate.
- **Reviewing 111 referrals to A&E** – when callers seeking medical advice are directed to visit an emergency department by NHS 111, each case will be independently reviewed by a clinician within 30 minutes of the call to ensure that the most appropriate pathway to meet the patient's need is identified. In cases where the right care and support for their needs is not A&E, the patient is safely redirected to the more appropriate service.
- **Promoting alternative options for ambulance**

crews – East Midlands Ambulance Service will be helping patients to safely and directly access the right service in cases where taking them to A&E isn't the best option for their needs. This could include mental health services, specialist clinics for particular conditions or care that's available in the community.

- **Rapid Response Team for falls** – a new team staffed by professionals from across Northamptonshire's health and care services will be available to provide a rapid and specialised response for frail older people who suffer falls at home or in a care home.
- **Same-day emergency care** – Kettering and Northampton General Hospitals are both developing services to ensure people who need emergency care for particular conditions can be rapidly assessed, diagnosed and treated without having to be admitted to hospital overnight (where it is clinically safe to do so).

The work outlined above will be supported by a communications campaign to raise awareness of services available locally for health and care needs over winter and to support people to choose well, stay well and live well.

To find out more about NHCP's Urgent and Emergency Care Pathways Delivery Plan for winter 2019/20, please email bhavnagosai@nhs.net.



Big Ideas

This work responds to the 'Information' category (co-ordinating care) of your Big Ideas northamptonshirehpc.co.uk/big-ideas

Fighting flu – winter vaccination is everybody's business

Last year nearly 2,400 people had to be admitted to hospital with flu or flu-related complications – the vast majority during the winter period. Yet many of these admissions could have been avoided altogether if the patients had received the flu and pneumonia vaccinations they were entitled to get for free.

Both illnesses are potentially fatal and the NHS's annual immunisation programme is undertaken every winter to protect those in our community who are most at risk. The flu vaccination is available free for over-65s, people with long-term health conditions, children in particular age groups, pregnant women, and health and care staff. Babies, over-65s and people with long-term illnesses are also eligible for the pneumonia vaccine.

Getting vaccinated doesn't just protect the individual – it also protects the wider community by restricting the spread of illness.

Here in Northamptonshire we know we can do more to protect against winter illness by ensuring more people get vaccinated. As part of NHCP's work to support better health and wellbeing for people with respiratory conditions, we're making it a priority this year to focus on improving our vaccination uptake.

David Williams, NHCP lead for respiratory care, said: "We'll do this by offering additional support to help GP practices vaccinate more people and explore opportunities to reach



those most at risk of flu and pneumonia in different ways. We'll also be launching a new and improved local communications campaign to help more people across Northamptonshire understand the importance of vaccination and the benefits it brings.

"If you work or volunteer in health and care, we all have a shared responsibility to protect the communities we serve by getting the flu jab. In the run-up to winter we'll be working with all of our health and care organisations to take the flu jab to more staff and volunteers than ever before – so look out for opportunities in your own workplace and make sure you do your bit to help Northamptonshire stay well!"

If you'd like to get involved in helping to improve vaccination uptake in Northamptonshire please contact Colin Thompson at cthompson@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Extra Care availability supports ageing well in Northamptonshire

Vacancies are now available in Northamptonshire for specialist housing which supports independent living for older people – and health and care professionals are being encouraged to refer people they think may be eligible.

'Extra Care' housing refers to a group of self-contained homes, often apartments, with special design features and support services to enable people with care needs to keep their independence for longer.

Typically an Extra Care housing scheme will have a care provider on site to meet its residents' planned or urgent care needs, providing an alternative to residential or domiciliary care. Many also offer regular social activities to promote mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce isolation.

One such facility is [Balmoral Place](#) in Kingsthorpe, Northampton, which has recently opened and has places available for people aged over 55 who are eligible for Northamptonshire County Council-funded social care and support and are also in receipt of housing benefit. Additionally there are places available for people who fund their own care. Apartments are rented and rents can be covered by housing benefit for those who are eligible, or residents can pay for the rent themselves.

Extra Care housing schemes are also an ideal setting for reablement and recovery to help frail older people return home after a hospital stay. A number of these 'step-down' apartments are currently being funded by Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, including four at Balmoral Place.

Bernie Lally, strategic commissioning manager for specialist accommodation and prevention for Northamptonshire County Council, said: "Extra Care can support people who may no longer be able to live comfortably in their own, non-specialist home and can avoid them having to move into residential care settings, therefore helping to maintain their independence."

Other Extra Care schemes which may also have spaces available across the county include facilities in Upton, Duston, Wellingborough, Rushden and Kettering, with a further development set to open in Kettering in December.

Health and care professionals wishing to make a referral to Extra Care accommodation can find out more by emailing bernie.lally@nass.uk.net. To find out more about Extra Care and how it can support reablement and care delivery, click [here](#) to view a short film.



Balmoral Place Extra Care scheme in Northampton

Workshop encourages clinicians to be leaders for change

"How do you get so many people doing things you tell them? It's about the narrative – tell a story that connects with why they're here." These words from Prof Sarah-Jane Marsh, hospital CEO and chair of the NHS England Maternity Transformation Programme, were the inspiration for a successful workshop for Northamptonshire clinical staff about the role of leadership in driving improvements to local services.

Building on outcomes from a previous event in December, the 'Leading Clinicians through Change' workshop took place in Kettering at the beginning of August. It brought together a diverse staff group including nurses, allied health professionals, mental health clinicians, social workers and pharmacists to discuss the latest developments in local health and care and how clinicians can support with the delivery of NHCP's priorities.

Keynote speakers included both Dr Robert Varnam and Thomas Kearney from NHS England/ Improvement alongside Dr David Smart (Leicester Terrace Surgery).

They led discussions on developing clinical leadership, understanding the capability and capacity of the AHP workforce and the importance of self-wellbeing and resilience.

The workshop, supported by East Midlands Leadership Academy funding, also happened to coincide with the start of the #WeActiveChallenge2019 promoting the benefits of keeping active – and resulted in Thomas Kearney leading delegates around the workshop to the sound of 'Uptown Funk'!

For further information about these workshops please email ganesh.baliah@nhs.net.



The 'Leading Clinicians Through Change' workshop



New test for GPs to rule out bowel cancer introduced across Northamptonshire

Faster and more accurate testing for signs of bowel cancer is being introduced by GP practices across Northamptonshire.

The new test, the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), was launched in July across the county for patients aged 60 and over with change of bowel habit.

FIT works by determining whether there is blood in a person's stool (poo) sample that is not visible to the naked eye. Blood in the stool may be an early sign of a colon polyp (a small growth that's typically not cancerous) or of bowel cancer.

GPs will be able to request the test from their consultation with the patient. Following the GP appointment, the testing kit is posted to the patient's home address and comes with easy-to-follow instructions on how to take a sample.

Using the kit, patients will then collect a small stool sample and post it back with pre-paid packaging to the specialist hub laboratory in Nottingham. There the sample will be analysed for blood, a possible sign of the cancer.

Results are then sent electronically to GPs, who communicate the findings to their patients.

If a patient has a positive result, they may need to have follow-up testing in the form of a colonoscopy (an examination of the colon using a colonoscope).

The introduction of FIT is important as bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK, with 42,000 people diagnosed every year – but figures from Public Health England suggest five-year survival for early stage bowel cancer is greater than 90%.

By introducing FIT in Northamptonshire the aims are to reduce the amount of people having unnecessary investigations and improve patient experience, to reduce the time to diagnosis for patients with bowel cancer, and to improve the detection of early stage bowel cancers.

For further information on the introduction of the Faecal Immunochemical Test in Northamptonshire, please contact Dr Az Ali, Northamptonshire CCGs' Clinical Lead for Cancer (azhar.ali1@nhs.net) or Cancer Project Officer Ashley Wilsdon (ashley.wilsdon@nhs.net).

Personalised Care Plans support choice for pregnant women

Pregnant women will have more influence over the care and support they receive thanks to the introduction of the Personalised Care Plan (PCP) to Northamptonshire.

PCPs are completed and owned by women individually, and enable them to set out their values, priorities, expectations and concerns about their maternity journeys before, during and after they give birth.

Launched in our county this summer, Northamptonshire's PCP template has been developed through engagement with maternity service users as well as midwives, health visitors, obstetricians and local maternity care leaders.

Bengali, Romanian, Lithuanian and Polish-language versions will also be available and electronic versions of PCPs are set to be developed as an option for women if they prefer.

Anne Richley, Northamptonshire Maternity Services Implementation Lead, said: "Every woman is free to make choices about her own pregnancy and childbirth, even if her caregivers do not agree with her. What is important is that she has evidence-based information, rather than opinion, on which to make her choices.

"The PCPs will provide a tool for women to document and share what is important to them about the care they receive and the decisions they make.

"They also give women opportunities to identify, at different stages of their pregnancy, if they need more information in order to make choices."

For further information about maternity services in Northamptonshire visit www.northamptonshirematernityservices.co.uk.



Big Ideas

This work responds to the 'Personalised Care' category of your Big Ideas

northamptonshirehcp.co.uk/big-ideas

Drivers wanted for Volunteer Car Scheme

Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme is appealing for local drivers to come forward to help elderly and disabled people travel to and from medical and wellbeing appointments.

The scheme, run by Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, has been operating in Northampton borough for nearly 30 years and has recently announced a new partnership providing volunteer drivers for Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

Volunteers will drive the trust's pool cars for staff and patient transport needs. Roles can be flexible and tailored to fit around volunteers' availability.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved with the Volunteer Car Scheme, call 01604 628234 or email carscheme@voluntaryimpact.org.uk.



DRIVERS WE NEED YOU!

Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme is recruiting volunteer drivers for a partnership with NHFT.

VOLUNTEERS WILL DRIVE NHFT POOL CARS AND WILL BE BASED PREDOMINANTLY AT BERRYWOOD HOSPITAL (ST CRISPINS).

THE ROLE INVOLVES DRIVING STAFF AND PATIENTS TO VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND LOCATIONS, MAINLY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON.

Chance to join Falls quality improvement event

A free conference is being held in Northamptonshire later this month to promote falls awareness and prevention – and health and care professionals can register to attend.

Taking place on Thursday 26 September at Kettering General Hospital, the falls quality improvement event will feature specialist speakers from our county's three NHS trusts.

Among the topics under discussion on the day will be improving patient safety, reducing harm, improving the quality of care delivery, continuing professional development and opportunities for collaborative working.

For more information and to book a place at the conference, visit tinyurl.com/y3ortmrl.

Have your say and help shape local diabetes care

People in Northamptonshire can get involved in helping to develop the county's diabetes services by attending a local network group.

The Northamptonshire Diabetes Network meets every quarter to give patients, carers, service providers and other interested parties the chance to stay informed and have their say about diabetes care.

The next network meeting is taking place on Tuesday 22 October at Moulton Community Centre.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Northamptonshire Diabetes Network can contact Vickie Hallett, diabetes project officer for Northamptonshire CCGs, by emailing v.hallett@nhs.net.

Northamptonshire health and care news in brief

- **Cavell award in memory of star nurse Jackie**
A Northampton nurse has become a posthumous winner of a Cavell Star Award. Jackie Phillips, who passed away in April, was nominated for going above and beyond for patients through her 30-year career. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Meet William – KGH's new £45,000 cardiac echo simulator**
A new state-of-the-art cardiac echo ultrasound simulator will give Kettering General Hospital's physiologists and doctors vital practice in detecting heart problems. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Join NHFT's annual public and members meeting**
Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust is inviting people to hear about its recent achievements and plans for the future at its annual public and members meeting on Thursday 19 September. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Healthwatch Northamptonshire recognised again for work with children and young people**
Healthwatch Northamptonshire has been re-accredited with the Investing in Children Membership Award for its work to give children and young people a voice in shaping local health and care. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **A wellbeing welcome for junior doctors at NGH**
Northampton General Hospital has welcomed its new cohort of junior doctors with a special welcome pack designed to promote self-care and empower them to look after their wellbeing. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Chief People Officer appointed for NGH and KGH**
The Trust Boards at both Northampton and Kettering General Hospitals have agreed to appoint Mark Smith as their new Chief People Officer across both organisations. Click [here](#) to read more.

Your NHCP team



Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership brings together leaders from across our county's health and care system, each with a wealth of experience in a range of backgrounds and disciplines. Each transformation priority and workstream is led by an executive sponsor from one of our organisations, supported by a senior responsible officer (SRO).

Partnership and Delivery Support Unit (DSU)

- Toby Sanders (CCGs)
Partnership Lead (supported by county CEOs)
- Dr Miten Ruparelia
Clinical Lead
- Julie Shepherd (NHFT)
Nursing Lead
- Tim O'Donovan
Assistant Prog Director

System Enabler Leads

- **Estates** – Sponsor: Theresa Grant (NCC)
- **Finance** – NHCP Directors of Finance Group
- **Digital** – Sponsor: Lucy Wightman (NCC) | SRO: Nigel Brokenshire (DSU)
- **Workforce** – Janine Brennan (NGH), Chris Oakes (NHFT and LWAB*)
- **Communications** – Sponsor: Angela Hillery (NHFT) | SRO: Dionne Mayhew (NHFT)

Transformation Priority Leads

- **Strategic Commissioning**
Sponsor: Toby Sanders (CCGs)
SRO: Anna Earnshaw (NCC), Anna Dorothy (CCGs)
- **Unified Acute Model**
Sponsors: Simon Weldon (KGH), Sonia Swart (NGH)
SROs: Chris Pallot (NGH), Polly Grimmett (KGH)
- **Primary, Community and Social Care**
SROs: David Williams (NHFT), Julie Curtis (CCGs)
- **Urgent and Emergency Care**
Sponsor: Simon Weldon (KGH)
SRO: Eileen Doyle (KGH)



Workstream Leads

- **Cancer**
Sponsor: Sonia Swart (NGH)
SRO: Karen Spellman (NGH)
- **Children and Young People**
Sponsor: Sally Hodges (NCC)
SROs: Kate Barker (CCGs), Sharon Muldoon (NCC)
- **Health and Wellbeing**
Sponsor: Lucy Wightman (NCC Public Health)
SRO: Stuart Mallett (DSU)
- **Learning Disabilities**
Sponsor: Anna Earnshaw (NCC)
SROs: Amy Brock (NCC), Kate Barker (CCGs)
- **Maternity**
Sponsor: Stuart Rees (CCGs)
SRO: Emma Donnelly (CCGs)
- **Mental Health**
Sponsor: Sandra Mellors (NHFT)
SRO: Kate Barker (CCGs)

* Local Workforce Advisory Board



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