

NHS agrees changes to learning disability services on Tees following public consultation

Following a public consultation, the NHS on Teesside agreed to introduce changes to respite services for adults (18+) with a learning disability, complex needs and/or autism. The decision taken by both NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees (HAST) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS South Tees CCG at the Governing Body In-Common on 1st February 2018 agreed to commission a range of services to improve choice whilst recognising the importance of retaining the current facilities available.

This means that bed based services will continue to be delivered from 2 Bankfields Court in Middlesbrough and Aysgarth in Stockton-on-Tees. Other changes to be implemented to make the service more equitable for people with a learning disability include:

- Changing the assessment and allocations process, making it more needs led;
- Offering more choice and improved focus on the needs of people with a learning disability and their carers and families;
- Buying flexible community-based respite services and clinically-led outreach support services so that people with a learning disability can choose from a range of respite activities with the appropriate support they need.

The decision follows extensive feedback from people who currently access services, their families and carers, and other key stakeholders as part of the 10-week formal public consultation process, which ran from September to November 2017.

Ali Wilson, Chief Officer of NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG, and Amanda Hume, Chief Officer of NHS South Tees CCG said in a joint statement: “The CCGs are pleased to support the recommended changes and would like to thank all those who contributed to the consultation; from people who access current services and their families and carers to key stakeholders such as our local authorities for their participation and feedback which has made this a truly participative process.

“We know how much the existing services and staff mean to people. We heard first-hand at our public consultation events the impact the services have on families across South Tees and the Hartlepool and Stockton areas.

“All the feedback received from the consultation; including both verbal and completed questionnaires; was vitally important in helping the CCGs make an informed decision on the future of learning disability services, and a decision that we believe reflects the majority view of people who took part in the consultation process.”

Further information and background about the consultation is available on the CCG websites: www.southteescgg.nhs.uk and www.hartlepoolandstocktoncgg.nhs.uk.

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For further information, please contact the North of England Commissioning Support communications and engagement team on 01642 745401 or 07826 531333.