



Consultation on Integration between Derby City Council & Derbyshire Community Health Services

What is being proposed?

Derby City Council (DCC) and Derbyshire Community Health Services (DCHS) are proposing to enter a partnership to jointly deliver a range of health and care support services in Derby. These services are aimed at helping people remain and live independently at home for as long as possible.

The partnership will create a single service that supports people to stay at home when their health or care needs change, and to help people who need help after a hospital stay. The services are commonly known as rehabilitation and reablement and are generally provided for up to two weeks. These services aim to help people recover from ill health or help people who may have an urgent and changing situation at home such as a disruption to their normal health and care routine.

Between our two organisations, around 80 people per week are supported to stay at, or return home, whether that be in an urgent crisis or if they are returning home after being treated in hospital. However, not everyone currently can access this support when they need it. This is causing some people to be delayed from leaving hospital or having to wait at home for an assessment of their needs for much longer than we would like. Whilst we know that many other areas of the country are affected by this, this proposal is aimed at improving this situation here in Derby.

What would this new partnership look like and what would it do?

The new partnership would create a single care and support team, with a wide range of skills, supporting the needs of Derby residents who wish to live independently in the place they call home.

This type of support would only be for a very short time - usually up to two weeks - and would assess whether other help would be needed on a longer-term basis.

The team will be a combination of existing roles such as nurses, therapists and support/care workers. This team would be made up of staff from DCC and DCHS, however in the future they would be in one team with a single employer. This would mean the team would be able to use a wide range of skills to try and assist people.

Why is this being proposed?

With a growing population and as people live longer, bringing health and care services closer together is at the heart of the NHS and Government plans, making sure that more people can receive support to remain healthy and independent at home for as long as possible. This support is even more critical after someone has had an episode of ill health or has been admitted to hospital.

DCC and DCHS are already working closely together by sharing the skills of their staff, but this proposal will take this a step further so that the teams will be better placed to support more people into the future.

What could the benefits be?

Joining forces in a partnership arrangement could mean:

- More people are supported with their urgent health and care needs at home, to remain independent for longer.
- There will be a more consistent response for everyone, as our new team would be larger and will mean we should be better able to meet the demands for health and care because of our population growth and changes.
- There may be a smaller number of different professionals that individuals and their families deal with. This is because the new team could undertake a single initial assessment, share information and be able to respond using a wider set of skills and abilities.
- By working as one team this could mean people only need to tell their story once. Healthcare information would be held in one central place, rather than separately and in multiple organisations.

What would change for local residents and partner organisations in Derby?

The main change would be that for those people who need urgent health or care support in the future there would be a new combined team called **Community First** that would provide this. This would only be for a short period until longer term arrangements were put in place if these were needed. Any ongoing care and support would continue for people who need it, but this would be provided by a different organisation or family and friends.

What would change for anyone currently working in the relevant teams at Derby City Council or Derbyshire Community Health Services?

The main change would be the makeup of the team as existing colleagues would be part of a larger single team but with the same employer. There may also be some future changes to the ways in which the teams currently work – such as working seven days a week. The changes could also mean a reduction in vacant posts as both organisations would combine their recruitment and would look to design

different job roles, where needed. We would also combine our training and development approach to enable potentially wider career opportunities for staff.

Any major changes to how staff work would need a more detailed consultation with staff affected before they were implemented.

How can DCC and DCHS do this, and how will they know they are doing the right thing?

There is legislation at Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 which enables Councils and NHS bodies to work together in partnership by joining their resources to fulfil their respective legal duties. This is referred to as a '*Section 75 Partnership Agreement*'.

DCC and DCHS would use this legislation to set out the aims of the partnership in a formal agreement and would regularly review that its desired aims were met. Feedback from people using the service, and staff working in the service, will be used in future to determine whether the desired improvements have been made.

When would this proposal take effect?

A decision on the proposal will not be made by DCC and DCHS until **after** this consultation process.
Any changes would likely take place from spring 2024.

How do I have my say on the proposals?

The consultation will be start from **Friday 15 September 2023** and will run until Tuesday 14 November 2023.

Please visit www.letstalk.derby.gov.uk where you can take part in the online survey. You can also download a paper copy to print and home and return it to us using the Freepost address.

You can request a paper copy to be sent through the post by emailing us at letstalkderby@derby.gov.uk.

Thank you for your time.