



## NHS Derby City and NHS Derbyshire County

### Overview and Scrutiny Primary Care Update September 2011

#### Extending Patient Choice from Provider from 2012

As you will be aware, the proposed Government reform of the NHS aims to:

- Enhance patient power through greater choice and personalisation supported by better information
- Give greater freedoms to front line clinicians and strengthened clinical leadership
- Improve quality of care, outcomes for patients and value for money for the taxpayer

Since 2010 the Government has also been committed to increasing choice and personalisation in NHS funded services. There is a specific commitment to extend choice to include Any Qualified Provider (AQP) for appropriate services. In practice this would mean that when a patient is referred for a particular service (usually by their GP) they should be able to choose from a list of qualified providers that meet NHS service quality standards, prices and normal contractual requirements. This is already in place for patients being referred to hospitals for routine planned procedures.

Following the listening exercise the NHS Future Forum supported the concept of patient choice of Any Qualified Provider. The Government has therefore maintained its commitment to this with phased implementation from April 2012.

The Department of Health published guidance on extending patient choice of provider on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011. This guidance requires the Derbyshire Cluster and shadow Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to:

- **By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011:** Engage with patients, patient representatives, healthcare professionals and providers on local priorities for extending choice.
- **By 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011:** To have decided on three or more community or mental health services for implementing extended choice.
- **April - September 2012:** To have implemented patient choice of AQP for the three identified services.

Within this guidance the Department of Health has identified a list of potential priorities for extending choice:

- Musculo-skeletal services for back and neck pain
- Adult hearing services in the community
- Continence services (adults and children)
- Diagnostic tests closer to home such as types of imaging, cardiac and respiratory investigations to support primary assessment of presenting symptoms
- Wheelchair services (children)
- Podiatry services
- Venous leg ulcer and wound healing
- Primary Care Psychological Therapies (adults)

If there are higher local priorities than those on this list then they may be chosen provided there is a clear case to do so, based on the views of patients and public and the potential gains in quality and access.

The Derbyshire Cluster proposes the following process to fulfil these requirements:

#### August and September

- Ask patients, public and providers to identify priorities for extending choice
- Inform wider stakeholders of the process (e.g. OSC)
- Ask the five shadow Derbyshire CCGs to agree the three priorities, taking into consideration results of the above engagement together with their clinical experience and other intelligence on the current quality and value of each service.

#### October

- Engage with shadow Health and Well Being Boards on the three priorities identified above in line with their terms of reference
- Consult with the OSCs on the intention to extend patient choice of provider in the three priorities identified above.

It is likely that extending patient choice of provider in the three priority service areas will involve service reconfiguration. This would be taken forward in line with the established service change processes with strong stakeholder engagement and formal consultation where required.

The Derby City OSC is asked to:

- Note the Department of Health requirements and rationale to extend patient choice of provider from April 2012
- Note the process by which the Derbyshire Cluster and shadow CCGs intend to achieve this
- Confirm that they wish the Derbyshire Cluster to return to OSC to share the three identified priorities
- Confirm that they wish the Derbyshire Cluster to return to OSC in line with usual service reconfiguration practice as these priorities are progressed towards implementation