

Communication from NHS Stockport to Stockport LINK – July 9th 2010

You will be aware of the financial pressure on the NHS in general and the efficiency savings which need to be made as directed by central government. Below is a statement from NHS Stockport.

Intention to decommission 3 pilot services and urgently review 2 others

NHS Stockport has notified the LINK of the following developments happening in the organisation.

1. Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership is a national pilot looking to establish whether a US model will have the same impact in UK. It aims to work with particularly vulnerable families and was due to run until October 2011

The service costs are over and above the normal Health Visiting service which remains in place

There is no UK evidence to date to suggest this service produces any additional health benefits.

It is suggested that the service runs until Jan to manage existing families on case load, then finishes and cases will be handed back to main stream service, where case loads will be picked up by Health Visitors and other statutory agencies.

2. Active Case Management

NHS Stockport has been running down this service in its prior plans and will now speed this up.

The aim of the service was to keep people out of hospital, but there is no evidence that this has been successful. Patients remain under their GP and this will not change. The Active Case Managers play a co-ordination role between the patient and the GP and were not treating patients directly. GPs will now retain the case and as for all other patients coordinate care themselves.

3. Community Falls Service

There is already a hospital falls service provided at Stepping Hill and a community falls service was set up to complement this service by keeping patients out of hospital. However the reality is that the service is under utilised and most patients end up at the hospital falls service anyway, thus duplicating effort and expense.

4. Parkinson's Disease Nurse

There is an urgent review being carried out on this service. NHS Stockport is liaising with the Foundation Trust and The Parkinson's Disease Society to find a better way forward instead of decommissioning. It is likely that this issue will be resolved by the end of July.

5. Early Intervention Service (EIS)

This was another pilot service which was set up to treat people in the community to take patients away from the hospital. However numbers in the hospital have not reduced. Again NHS Stockport is liaising with the Foundation Trust as part of an urgent review to be completed by the end of July.

6. Summary

In summary 43 members of clinical and administration staff will be effected. It is the intention that every effort will be made to redeploy or retrain these staff elsewhere within the NHS for example into existing vacancies. NHS Stockport is in close consultation with staff and unions to minimise the risks.

As you will be aware PCT's nationally have been asked to reduce management costs by 33%, NHS Stockport has been given its share of this target, but this decommissioning of services does not in anyway replace the need to proceed with the management cost reductions. It is "as well as" rather than "instead of". NHS Stockport will inform you of this in more detail when there is sufficient clarity following the publication of the White Paper on Monday.

Also some of you may be aware the LINK received queries relating to clinic closures and removal of clinical services in Cheadle Heath, Great Moor and Reddish. Services to these communities are not being withdrawn but rather they are part of a programme to relocate services to more modern buildings that better comply with government standards.

If you are concerned about any of the issues raised in this statement please contact the **LINK office on 0161 477 8479** who will forward your concerns or views to NHS Stockport.

Nicola Baker will be attending the LINK Briefing session on Friday 16th July 10am Walthew House, and will also be able to answer any further questions you might have.

Maria Kildunne

LINK Development Manager, July 2010