

HEALTHIER TOGETHER UPDATE

- 1.1 On Wednesday 15 July 2015, commissioners agreed new standards of care for emergency medicine and general surgery (surgery on the abdomen and bowels) in all hospitals across Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 Under the Healthier Together proposals, 'single services' will be formed – networks of linked hospitals working in partnership. This means care will be provided by a team of medical staff who will work together across a number of hospital sites within the single service.
- 1.3 All hospitals will improve to ensure they meet the quality and safety standards. The new standards will mean an additional 35 consultants recruited across A&E and general surgery, a minimum of 12 hours of consultant cover in A&E seven days a week, and a consultant surgeon and anaesthetist present for all high risk general surgical operations.
- 1.4 All hospitals will keep their existing specialisms and will continue to provide care to their local populations as they do now.
- 1.5 There are three elements to the Healthier Together programme – *Joined-up Care, Primary Care and Hospital Care*. Clinically led, the programme aims to provide the best health and care for patients across Greater Manchester.
- 1.6 Healthier Together is a key building block for a fully devolved health and social care system in Greater Manchester (GM); the decisions have been named as early priorities for the region's ground-breaking devolution programme. Involving NHS England, the 12 Greater Manchester CCGs, the 10 local authorities and 15 NHS Trusts, the GM health and social care devolution programme aims to bring organisations together to work in partnership to deliver the biggest and fastest improvement to health and wellbeing for the people of Greater Manchester.
- 1.7 The changes to hospitals are being supported by improvements to primary care and joined up care. These improvements are already underway with, for example, pilot sites in Manchester, Bury, Heywood and Middleton now providing 500,000 people in Greater Manchester with same-day access to primary care services. This has led to a reduction of 3% in total A&E activity in the pilot site areas, compared to the rest of Greater Manchester. By the end of 2015 access will be expanded to everyone living in Greater Manchester with the aim of making care more easily accessible to patients and reducing the number of people going to A&E.
- 1.8 Greater Manchester has a long history of change; the way some specialist conditions such as major trauma and stroke are treated has already been changed. There is evidence that consolidating services onto a fewer hospital sites has already saved lives and improved patient care and Greater Manchester want to do more of this. Learning from the changes to major trauma and stroke services has been used to design the single service model.
- 1.9 All hospitals specialise in providing certain types of care, for example some hospitals specialise in stroke care, others in cancer care. Similarly, one of the

hospitals within each of the single services will specialise in emergency medicine and abdominal surgery, for patients with life threatening conditions.

- 1.10 On 15 July 2015, clinical leaders decided unanimously that Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport will be the fourth hospital in Greater Manchester to provide emergency medicine and specialist abdominal surgery as part of a single service, under the Healthier Together proposals to drive up quality and standards.
- 1.11 In June 2015 commissioners decided that there should be four single services introduced in Greater Manchester. On 15 July, the 'Committees in Common' (CiC), comprising GPs from each Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in Greater Manchester, reviewed a range of evidence including the feedback from the public consultation held last year and data relating to: travel and access, quality and safety, transition (how easy it will be to achieve the change) and affordability and value for money, and decided that the fourth hospital would be Stepping Hill.
- 1.12 The following hospitals will work in partnership to provide shared single services:
 - Manchester Royal Infirmary, Wythenshawe Hospital and Trafford General Hospital
 - Royal Oldham Hospital, North Manchester General Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary
 - Salford Royal Hospital, Royal Bolton Hospital and Royal Albert Edward Infirmary in Wigan
 - Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport and Tameside General Hospital
- 1.13 As the Accountable Officer and with the Governing Body's delegated authority, Dr Nigel Guest has represented Trafford CCG on the 'Committees-in-Common'. He is also a member of the Healthier Together Programme Board. The CiC and the Programme Board continue to meet on a regular basis.