

in good health

The Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership

Norfolk and Waveney STP Oversight Group

February 2019 update

Improving cancer care is one of our top priorities. Cancer survival is the highest it's ever been. But despite the progress the NHS has made since the launch of the [Cancer Strategy](#), we know that we need to catch more cancers early and start treatment fast.

As set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), we're investing in new technology and staff to improve the care you receive. And we can all play our part too, by making sure that we understand the causes and symptoms of cancer.

Last week former Norwich City footballer Darren Eadie was working with us to highlight the importance of addressing the early signs and symptoms of colorectal and prostate cancer in men. Find out more by [reading his blog](#) or watching the video below.

I think this is a great example of reaching out to people in ways and places that make sense to them, rather than waiting for them to come to the GP's surgery.

I hope that you find the updates below useful – please let me know whether you'd like more detail on any of them.

Patricia

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt

Independent Chair of the Norfolk and Waveney STP

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[Watch](#) former Norwich City footballer Darren Eadie find out about the importance of addressing the early signs and symptoms of colorectal and prostate cancer in men.

Demand and capacity review

Over the past few months we've been reviewing demand for health and care services in Norfolk and Waveney, and our resources and capacity to meet that demand. At our February meeting we considered the findings from the review, which identified some key challenges for our partnership:

- A growing and ageing population
- Primary care working to capacity, with a shrinking GP workforce
- Acute inpatient bed capacity cannot meet demand
- Community services cannot meet demand from acutes
- Social care and home care capacity is not keeping up with demand
- The system has significant financial challenges.

Whilst these challenges were not unknown to us, the review has helped to quantify them in more detail so that we understand more about the scale of the challenges facing us, the causes and some potential solutions.

For example, the review said that if we do not implement the many schemes

already in the pipeline and if we do not develop more, the mismatch in demand for services and our capacity to care for those people would result in a deficit of 500 beds by 2023. We are of course implementing many new initiatives, such as new 'escalation

avoidance teams' and community-based support services, but even if all of these come to fruition we may still be 140 beds short of what we will need.

The review is also clear that the issues we face cannot be addressed by any single organisation – only collective interventions will create a sustainable position. Together with improving outcomes for patients, this is why we are focused on developing more integrated services for people before they need hospital treatment.

You can read the full report [here](#). We are establishing a new Demand and Capacity workstream to take forward the findings from the review, which will develop short, medium and long term plans, with a significant part of its work to focus on the longer term strategy.

Get help from your pharmacist #helpushelpyou

Minor health problems can sometimes be troublesome if you leave them untreated. Your pharmacist can provide advice without having to visit a GP. Find your local pharmacy here: <http://bit.ly/2AePFqO> #HelpUsHelpYou



Finance

We also discussed the financial position of our system. Last year NHS organisations in Norfolk and Waveney had a combined deficit of £65 million and we are currently forecasting a deficit of over £90 million for 2018/19. Our ambition is to halve this deficit in the next financial year.

We are working through our 2019/20 budgets and allocations so that we understand the impact on our finances. The additional funding we will receive through the investment announced alongside the NHS Long Term Plan will help us to reduce our deficit, however it will not solve the problem and we will need to find other ways to make our system more efficient.

To make sure that we have a shared understanding of the financial position of our system, we are going to start producing a monthly system finance report which we will ask CCG governing bodies and provider boards to discuss at their meetings in public. We are aiming for the first report to be discussed in March.

Mental health

We discussed our draft mental health strategy, which has been updated following a second round of engagement. The updated version of the strategy was published with the papers for and discussed at the February meeting of the [Joint Strategic Commissioning Committee](#).

Further work will be done to our strategy before it is signed-off in March, but the six commitments in our strategy remain as:

- Focus more on prevention and wellbeing
- Ensure clear routes into and through services and make these transparent to all
- Support the management of mental health issues in the primary care setting
- Provide appropriate support to those in crisis
- Ensure effective in-patient care for those that really need it
- Ensure the system is focused on working in an integrated way to care for patients

Each of these six commitments has a workstream established to develop detailed plans. Once we have a final version of the strategy, the workstreams

will continue to meet. Their membership is bespoke to their work area and a service user or carer will co-chair each of the workstreams in future.

We have also brought service users and carers together in a co-production group to ensure that, throughout this vital work, the views of service users and carers are front and centre. We are determined that our strategic plan for mental health will be truly co-produced for the people who use mental health services and those who support them.