

Press Release

22/11/16

Immediate Release

Healthwatch LLR Joint statement to draft STP

The STP published yesterday (21 November 2016) contains several elements which will be of concern to patients and public across Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). While we understand the need to make efficiency savings to maintain the very existence of the NHS and Social Care in LLR this should not be at the cost of quality provision which meets the needs of patients and public.

We should not lose sight of the fact that these plans are required by NHS England and the agencies in LLR have had to do this. If done properly with meaningful public consultation, which has the real chance of influencing plans, then a coordinated, collaborative approach to delivering health and social care should be possible.

However we are particularly concerned that the cuts in hospital beds will only be viable if there is a huge injection of resource into primary, community care and social care. Even then the massive shortfall in GPs in LLR and changes in job roles to adapt to community settings will mean that getting more resource into community care will take several years.

Another key concern is about how patient and public groups and Healthwatch will be involved in developing plans, the governance of the implementation, and in public consultation.

Healthwatch in Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland will work to ensure the detail in the plan is critically evaluated that the patient and

public voice is central to the STP and that public consultation is not just a tick box exercise.

-Ends-

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