

Forest of Dean Health & Care Services Review

A review of community health and care services in the district got underway towards the end of 2015, with arrangements in place to ensure an inclusive approach is taken.

The review involves developing a plan for high quality and affordable community health and care services (including Community Hospital services) with Forest of Dean residents, which meets their needs now and in the future.

This is similar to work that has been going on in other localities across Gloucestershire.

The project is being guided and influenced by the Forest of Dean Stakeholder Reference Group, which represents a range of interests, and the plan will be developed with patients, the public, staff and community partners.

The first part of the project includes discussing some of the challenges and opportunities for health, services and community support in the Forest of Dean.

This project is starting in the right place with an assessment of the health and social care needs of local people and building a full picture of the resources available in the Forest of Dean – both in terms of community support and money spent.

The next phase of the project will be to develop a full understanding of the anticipated demand for care and services in to the future based on things like population growth and people's health.

This will help to inform what services are needed and how best to provide them.

Work on the needs assessment, resources (asset mapping) and what services could look like should be complete by Spring 2016.

All this needs to happen before an assessment can be made of where best to provide these services from and what facilities are needed.

The Locality Stakeholder Reference Group is helping to decide the best ways of reaching out to all sections of the community and ensuring effective and timely communication and engagement.

Representatives from the Project Group have already attended a number of events and community group meetings in the Dean.

As well as staff and community engagement throughout the life time of the project, there is a commitment to a full consultation on any proposals from Spring/Summer next year.

You can already have your say, by letting us know about your experiences of local services and support – what you think works well and what could be improved.

The survey is available on this web page.

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