

CCG 60 Second Bulletin
Issue 6 – August 2017

Across the county

Support for patients at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes

Gloucestershire is one of 13 new areas to offer an NHS prevention programme to patients identified as being at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

The Healthier You Programme, which is run collaboratively by NHS England, Public Health England and Diabetes UK, supports people who are on the cusp of getting type 2 diabetes by helping them to stay well and reduce the risk of the condition becoming more serious.

Patients referred to the programme will get specific, personalised support, including education on eating healthily, making sensible lifestyle choices and maintaining a healthy weight.

The initiative is being trialled initially in three Gloucestershire GP practices. Patients will be contacted by their surgery if they are identified as being at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and invited to participate.

It is anticipated that the programme will be rolled out across the rest of the county over the next year or so.

Primary school pupils clock up the miles!

10,000 pupils from 55 primary schools in the county have run, walked, hopped, skipped, jumped or jogged thousands of miles during the summer term as part of Active Gloucestershire's Daily Mile initiative.

The initiative, which is an STP project supported by partners is all about improving children's health and wellbeing through regular activity and spending time and having fun in the fresh air every day.

Feedback from the schools which participated has been overwhelmingly positive, backing up the evidence which shows that a short exercise break from the classroom can bring many benefits to both pupils and teachers, helping children to be healthier, more productive and alert.

Schools have reported improved confidence and better focus in lessons whilst feedback from parents has also been consistently positive.

With childhood obesity rates rising, encouraging physical activity at an early age is important. Research has shown that children who are overweight in primary school are less likely to revert to a healthy weight in later life.

Expert pharmacy advice in more Gloucestershire surgeries

An additional 72,558 patients in Gloucestershire will soon be able to benefit from expert clinical

pharmacy advice when they visit their GP surgery thanks to the expansion of a national scheme.

The clinical pharmacy scheme, which has been running in six Gloucestershire practices since March 2016, sees independent prescribing clinical pharmacists work as part of the general practice team.

They provide expertise on day-to-day medicine issues and hold consultations with patients, helping them to manage long-term conditions. This often gives patients access to clinical advice more quickly and allows GPs to spend time with patients who have more complex needs.

As well as seeing patients, pharmacists are able to carry out comprehensive medication reviews for patients to make sure the medication they need is appropriate and up to date.

The scheme is now being extended within other practices across the county.

2016/17 Annual Review published

The CCG has published its 2016/17 Annual Report.

The report highlights the great work that is going on across the county and within our local communities to improve health and care, despite the challenges facing the NHS.

Read it on our website [here](#).

Healthcare professionals ‘Highly Commended’ at Health Service Journal Awards

Healthcare professionals in Gloucestershire received the accolade for their work in designing significantly improved services for patients who have musculoskeletal (MSK) problems such as pain or injuries of joints, muscles, nerves or ligaments which support limbs, the back and neck.

Over the past two years, health and social care partners worked collaboratively with patients to understand how they could improve services to help patients live their lives to the full.

As a result, services that help people with MSK problems will offer more consistent, joined up and high quality care to help patients manage and reduce the progression of their conditions.

Keeping GP services responsive, safe and sustainable

Over the past year, we have been working hard with our partners to deliver the General Practice Forward View (GPFV) in Gloucestershire and tackle some of the pressures being felt by GPs and their teams.

The GPFV was published last year by NHS England to support GP practices and transform the way care is provided.

In Gloucestershire, practices are now working in closer partnership as ‘clusters’. Within these, practices have new shared health professionals such as physiotherapists, clinical pharmacists and paramedics working as part of their practice teams to support local people, often in their own homes.

We are also exploring opportunities for practices to provide more appointments at evenings and weekends and to signpost patients better to the most appropriate services to meet their needs.

Thanks to a high level of commitment from practices, Gloucestershire is at the forefront of implementing this programme nationally.

New service offers convenient prescription ordering

The CCG is piloting a new Prescription Ordering Line service with Rosebank Health in Gloucester to make it quicker and easier for patients to order repeat prescriptions.

Patients can simply call a dedicated number to order their repeat prescriptions and collect these as usual from their pharmacy or GP practice.

Calls will be answered by a fully trained receptionist who will discuss the patient's medication requirements and ensure that they receive the correct amount of medicines in the most timely and efficient way.

We hope the service will reduce the costs associated with wasted medicines – once medicines have been supplied to patients, they cannot legally be used for anyone else.

Several practices in Gloucester will join the pilot in the coming weeks and it is hoped that if successful, approval will be given for further rollout.

A similar service is also being piloted at a number of practices in the Stroud and Berkeley Vale locality.

New Community Frailty Service ensures best outcomes for patients

Recognising the need for a practice-led community service to meet the needs of people with frailty and support their carers, GPs in the South Cotswolds have set up a new Community Frailty Service.

The new team, which includes nurses, a senior matron and wellbeing co-ordinators, provides advice, support and care for frail adults to help them meet their health, emotional and social needs, from living healthily to end of life support.

The service works closely with a range of partner services, including hospitals, GPs, and the voluntary and community sector.

A host of surgery improvements ensure premises are fit for the future

A number of new surgery buildings and refurbishments are ensuring the county's GP premises remain fit for the future.

A brand new surgery development serving the people of Kingsway and the surrounding area has received planning permission.

The new premises will be run by Rosebank Health, which already operates Rosebank Surgery on Stroud Road and Severnvale Surgery in Quedgeley.

It will be able to cater for around 13,000 patients, and the new building will be built to modern, state-of-the-art specifications. It will include ten consulting rooms, four rooms which can be used flexibly for treatments and minor operations, first-rate facilities for reception and administration staff and an on-site pharmacy. Building work will take around 12 months.

Patients to the north of Cheltenham are also set to benefit from a brand new medical centre next year, with building work getting underway in September.

Cleavelands Medical Centre will be built within the heart of the new housing estate in Bishop's Cleeve, and will see Seven Posts Surgery in Prestbury and Greyholme Surgery in Cleeve's village centre come together on the new site, with the two original surgeries closing shortly afterwards.

The two surgeries currently provide care to over 10,000 patients, but with further housing planned for the area, the new larger surgery's total number of patients is set to rise over the next few years.

The new premises will be modern and spacious, and will have 14 clinical rooms, including consulting and nurse treatment rooms, as well as a suite for minor operations and an onsite pharmacy.

In Churchdown, building work on the long-awaited new surgery development is finally underway.

The new premises, which are being built on Parton Road, will be able to cater for up to 20,000 patients, significantly improving the growing local population's access to primary care services.

The new building is being built to modern, comfortable, state-of-the-art specifications and will include additional consulting rooms, nurse treatment areas, a lift, training rooms and first-rate facilities for reception and administration staff.

The new premises will ensure that the surgery can continue to provide high quality services for years to come and is due to be available for use from spring 2018.

Meanwhile, patients registered with Stoke Road Surgery in Bishop's Cleeve are benefitting from an extension and internal refurbishment of the premises.

The renovation work has added a number of consulting rooms, a new patient waiting and reception area, an upgraded minor operations room and much needed modern, administration office space.

With the significant increase in the local population over the past few years, the surgery can now cope with the growing demand for services.