

# Newsletter

November 2014



Welcome to the *Solihull - Together for Better Lives* newsletter. In this first issue we explain what *Solihull – Together for Better Lives* means and how it relates to the work we have been doing to integrate care and support services. You will hear from some of the key partners involved and find out how we are already working together to deliver better experiences for people in Solihull.

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## **What is *Solihull – Together for Better Lives*?**

*Solihull -Together for Better Lives* is a shared commitment to improve the co-ordination of health and care services in our borough. This commitment includes putting people who use these services, and their carers and families, at the heart of decision making. By working together, we will deliver better outcomes and experiences for Solihull residents.

## **Who is part of *Solihull – Together for Better Lives*?**

- Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
- Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Solihull Primary Care providers
- Solihull Voluntary and Community Sector

- Lay members representing people using services, their carers and the wider Solihull community

### **What are the priorities for Solihull – Together for Better Lives?**

The initial focus of our work is on Solihull's ageing population, in particular people who are frail or living with dementia. This work is being delivered through the Integrated Care and Support Solihull (ICASS) programme and funded in part, by the Better Care Fund.

Early successes include Solihull's first Information and Advice Hub, at Chelmsley Wood, and the first stage of a Supported Integrated Discharge (SID) Service which will reduce the time patients have to spend in hospital. You can read more about this award-winning service later in the newsletter.

You will hear all our organisations talking about *Solihull – Together for Better Lives* as we plan and deliver the services needed to support Solihull's ageing population.

### **Dr Patrick Brooke, Accountable Officer, Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

We have focused the first 18 months on bringing together the people who lead our health and care system and developing the governance structures that will help us move forward as a partnership. As an example, (and this might seem like a small thing, but it's actually quite momentous!) for the first time in Solihull we have managed to get all the Directors of Finance in one room, working together on how they make best use of our collective resources (what we tend to refer to as "the Solihull £"). Now, though, is the time to shift our focus from governance structures to people and delivery. We need to design sustainable services that work together to keep people out of hospital and in their own communities. Through *Solihull – Together for Better Lives* we will make decisions together, so that we can create a better, more sustainable system through which our people receive care that we are proud of.

### **Nick Page, Chief Executive, Solihull Council**

*Solihull - Together for Better Lives* sums up our purpose and priorities perfectly. Our overriding commitment in the Council is 'Lives not Services'. To improve the lives of our residents we need to focus on three priority areas: Managed Growth, Strong Communities and Health and Wellbeing. Prosperity improves health and wellbeing; strong communities tend to be healthier communities. We cannot achieve this alone and we are committed to working closely with our partners and with local people to make Solihull a place where we are all proud to live and work.

### **Professor Matthew Cooke, Deputy Medical Director, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust**

Healthcare is changing rapidly as new technologies and treatments are developed, but also because more people are living longer and may have more health problems. Some care that was only previously available in a hospital can now be delivered in a person's home. *Solihull – Together for Better Lives* is bringing everyone together in Solihull to ensure we provide this care for local people in a coordinated and effective way that also delivers the best outcomes and experience.

### **John Short, CEO Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Every day we are reminded of the importance of working together more closely across health and social care to ensure we continue to provide the best possible standards of care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities, in their own homes wherever possible. Our staff work hard to improve the lives of older people through *Solihull – Together for Better Lives* and we look forward to being part of a more integrated healthcare system which achieves better outcomes for our service users and carers.

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## Dementia Summit – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014

More than 30 senior clinical and professional leads in dementia from Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, Solihull Council, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and Alzheimer's Society met to explore how health and care organisations can work together to improve the borough's dementia diagnosis rates.

Delegates at Solihull's first Dementia Summit heard from Professor Alistair Burns, National Clinical Lead for Dementia Services at NHS England. He raised the issue of timely rather than early diagnosis and the support available to people after diagnosis. He also challenged delegates to think about who can diagnose the condition.

The summit identified Solihull's top three priorities; reducing stigma and raising awareness of the condition, ensuring there is a clear pathway to deliver care and support, and developing our workforce skills and competencies, particularly in primary care.

For more information about the Summit please [contact Mark Clarke, Commissioning Officer – Dementia Services, Solihull Council](#), or call 0121 704 6272

Photo caption: (above) Professor Alistair Burns, NHS England and Dr Patrick Brooke, Solihull CCG

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## Major award for Supported Integrated Discharge Service

An innovative partnership between the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and Solihull Council has been recognised for its achievements in supporting patients with a prestigious national award.

The Supported Integrated Discharge (SID) team, at Solihull Hospital, works in partnership with Solihull Council's Promoting Independence (PI) Service to help ease the transition from hospital back into the home for frail elderly patients seeking treatment for acute illnesses.

The success of the service, since its introduction in 2012, has now been recognised at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards 2014, where the partnership won in the Secondary Care Service Redesign category overcoming stiff competition from 11 other providers from across the country. The judges praised the 'significant joint working' by the SID team and said it offered 'outstanding integrated success'.

Photo: SID team outside Solihull Hospital

Caption: From left to right: Kelly Shaw (PI Coordinator, SMBC), Donna Shaw (OT, SMBC), Karen Lewis (Solihull Hospital Therapy Lead), Pete Heald (SID physio, HEFT), Mandy Hannigan (PI Coordinator, SMBC), Julie Blake (PI Clinical Lead, SMBC), Kate Footman (SID OT, HEFT)

[Find out more about SID from solihull staff and patients](#)

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