

In touch

with your local NHS

Major project sets out to tackle money wasted on medicines in Cannock and Stafford

Health bosses in Cannock and Stafford have launched a campaign to help reduce the £1.5 million of medicines wasted every year across Cannock and Stafford.

Cannock Chase and Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are urging the public to join them in the campaign aimed at preventing money being wasted on unused or unnecessary medicines. This money could be reinvested in vital, local healthcare services.

Posters, leaflets and stickers on prescription bags have gone out to pharmacies and GP surgeries across Cannock and Stafford areas, urging patients to think carefully about the costs and to help manage their medicines better.

Dr Johnny McMahon, Chair of Cannock Chase CCG, said: "The amount of money that goes to waste every year on medicines that are prescribed but do not get used always shocks people. Quite often, these medicines just end up in the back of the cupboard gathering dust.

"£1.5 million is a huge amount of waste," he said. "That amount of money could be used to fund over 250 hip operations or treat over 5,500 cancer patients to receive chemotherapy. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the level of waste down and patients can play a crucial role by ensuring they only order what they need."

The CCGs are also working closely with pharmacists and GPs across the area to get them to check more rigorously what people need before issuing or dispensing prescriptions.

Medicines cost the NHS money whether a patient pays a prescription charge or not, hence the emphasis on everyone needing to play their part in helping to keep prescribing costs down by taking steps to reduce waste.



Pharmacy Stamp

Age Title, Forename, Surname & Address

D.o.B



Please don't stamp over the box

Number of days' treatments

Endorsements



There is no such thing as a free prescription.

Even if you don't pay for your prescriptions there is still a cost to the NHS.



Signature of Prescriber

Date

Today

For dispenser No of items on the form

£1.5million of medicines are wasted locally every year - this money could have paid for other treatment and services.

It is everyone's NHS so let's use it wisely.

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How you can help to reduce medicines waste

- Only order what you need
 - Check what you already have at home before you order
 - If you don't order an item this time it will still be on your repeat prescription to order when you need it
 - If anyone else orders your medicines for you, let them know if there are any items you don't need.
- If there are any items you do not need give them back to the pharmacist **before you leave the pharmacy.**
 - Once you have left, any returned, unused medicines **MUST** be destroyed; they cannot be recycled or re-used for other patients.
- Let your GP or pharmacist know if you have any problems with your medicines.
- If you have stopped any medicines let your surgery know to remove them from your repeat prescription.
- If you need to go into hospital, take all your medicines with you.



News in Brief

The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust has revealed that they have taken over the running of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Cannock Chase Hospital from 1 March.

The Trust hopes that by taking control of the service, they will be able to increase opening hours, improve the clinical model available to patients and see an increase in the number of people using the service.

Tim Powell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the RWT, said: “There has been uncertainty over this service and we are pleased to be able to take control of it. It is particularly good news for staff who work there and, of course, for the local population.

“We will be opening from 10.30am to 6.30pm every day of the year and over time we hope to add more nurses and then extend the service offer as soon as is practicable.

“The MIU was isolated before but now becomes part of the RWT urgent care family. It is a very valuable service and we want to see as many local people using it as possible – but only if they have minor injuries.”

Chair of Cannock Chase CCG Dr Johnny McMahon said: “We are delighted that the Minor Injuries Unit is now part of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust and it secures its future as part of an integrated urgent care system.”

The MIU is accessible to the population of South Staffordshire and surrounding areas and delivers services to all patients who self-present and those who are referred.

Access to the Unit is open, people can walk-in and be seen and treated based on their clinical need without the need for an appointment.

A team of highly-qualified nurses work there, treating people who have minor injuries, but not people who are seriously ill or have a life-threatening condition.

Healthcare leaders in Cannock set to meet in public this week

The doctors and NHS managers responsible for buying healthcare services for Cannock Chase will meet in public this week.

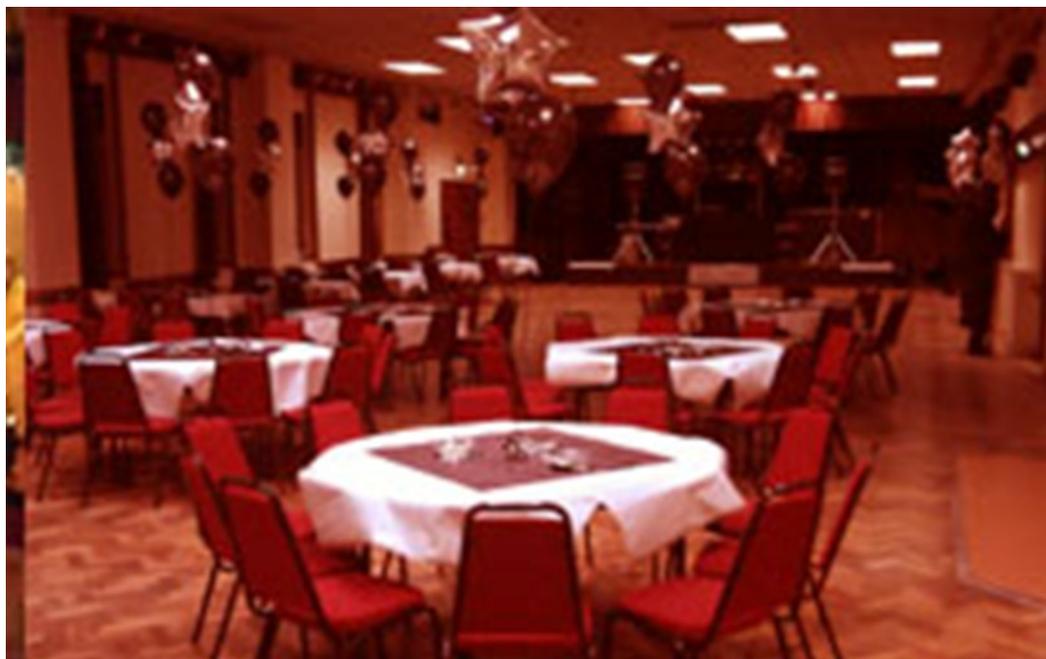
Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group is set to hold the regular meeting of its Governing Body on Thursday March 5, between 2pm and 4pm at The Aquarius Ballroom in Victoria Shopping Park, Hednesford.

Matters on the agenda for discussion include the regular reports from the CCG's Chair, Chief Officer and leads for finance, performance and quality.

In addition the CCG will be presented with papers discussing an updated IVF policy, and the Adult Autism Diagnostic and Assessment Service in South Staffordshire.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and there is time set aside for public questions during the meeting.

To register your interest in attending the meeting, for any further information or to arrange a printed copy of the board papers call 01785 355796 or email gill.hackett@northstaffs.nhs.uk.





Partnership Working to Improve Neurological Services in Staffordshire

Do you want to make life better for local people with Neurological Conditions?

Could you help to spread the word about improving Neurological Services in Staffordshire?

Could you provide an informed voice to represent those who may not otherwise be heard?

Cannock Chase CCG is working with the Staffordshire Neurological Alliance to support their bid to make life better for local people with neurological conditions.

The Alliance has already established a close working relationship with local health commissioners and providers, charities, patient groups and MPs and has developed a website to signpost people to sources of help and information.

They are now looking to expand their activities by recruiting and training Neurological Advocates to help them spread the word across Cannock Chase and its surrounding areas and to reach out to the 90% of diagnosed patients who do not belong to a specific group or charity.

As a Neurological Advocate you will represent the views of people living with Neurological conditions at local patient groups, NHS and Social Services consultations and CCG initiatives. You will visit support groups to establish better communication with as many as possible of those affected by neurological conditions or providing services to those affected.

Your goal will be to become regarded as a valued and constructive partner by commissioners, clinicians and service providers while being a trusted advocate for service users.

What do you need to be able to do to become a Neurological Advocate?

- To talk to people and listen to what they have to say
- To work as part of a team
- To travel across the CCG area
- To analyse information and see the bigger picture
- To interact with people at all levels
- To use rational arguments and facts to challenge decisions

Full training will be provided for those signing up as advocates as well as mentoring by a Trustee or Director of the Neurological Alliance. All expenses will also be reimbursed.

If you feel you could fulfil this role or would like more information, the Alliance is holding a launch event on Monday 20th April at the Red Rose Theatre in Rugeley, from 9.30am till 3.30pm.

To book your place, please email Dr Steve Searle at docstevesearle@outlook.com





The Dignity in Care Campaign

The Dignity in Care campaign was launched in November 2006, and is hosted by the Social Care Institute for Excellence, and aims to put dignity and respect at the heart of UK care services.

The campaign has over 40,000 registered Dignity Champions - be they individuals or care organisations. They are part of a nationwide movement, working individually and collectively, to ensure people have a good experience of care when they need it. They include councillors, staff at all levels in NHS and social care, volunteers, service users, their carers and members of the public.

The Dignity in Care campaign is led by the National Dignity Council, who work together to raise the profile of the network and to place greater emphasis on promoting the work the Dignity Champions do to improve standards of care for people who use services.

The campaign's core values are about having dignity in our hearts minds and actions, changing the culture of care services and placing a greater emphasis on improving the quality of care and the experience of citizens using services including NHS hospitals, community services, care homes and home support services.

It includes action to:

- Raise awareness of Dignity in Care
- Inspire local people to take action
- Share good practice and give impetus to positive innovation
- Transform services by supporting people and organisations in providing dignified services
- Reward and recognise those people who make a difference and go that extra mile.

In support of this campaign, people across the country from all walks of life, are signing up as Dignity Champions. For more information on what it means to be a Dignity Champion, and to sign up, take a look at our [Becoming a Dignity Champion](#) section.

