



In touch

with your local NHS

Reduced Antibiotic Prescribing

A campaign to reduce antibiotics prescribing across Cannock Chase is proving to be a success.

The campaign, which started in October last year, has already seen a 15% reduction in the amount of antibiotics being prescribed and the CCG is hoping to maintain the downward trend.

One of the key parts of the campaign was to raise awareness about the link between the use of antibiotics and *C.difficile* infections. The campaign also included educational updates for both GPs and members of the public and information used to change patient expectations about the use of antibiotics for coughs and colds.

Sharuna Reddy from the CCG's Medicine's Management Team said: "This improvement would not have been possible without the support of senior leaders, clinicians and practice staff to review and challenge antibiotic prescribing and to support patients to self care."

Aspirin in Pregnancy

NICE guidelines that recommend aspirin in early pregnancy were updated in 2013.

Following the updated guidance, pregnant women who have a higher risk of developing preeclampsia are being offered a prescription of aspirin (unless this is unsuitable) to take every day from 12 weeks of pregnancy until their baby is born.

Midwives will carry out the risk assessment at the booking appointment and if aspirin is required they will forward a letter to the GP, which would include the assessment, for the GP to prescribe dispersible aspirin 75mg. This would not require a GP appointment. The woman could then collect the prescription from the surgery and it could be added to their repeat prescription.

Improving services for young Carers

Healthwatch Staffordshire wants to hear from those who work with children and young people to find out their views on how local services should be shaped to better meet the needs of young carers.

Please can you and your colleagues complete a survey, separate to the young people's survey, which can be found on the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/youngcarersprofessional2014

The survey is open until 31 July 2014.

Further details on the carers initiative is available via the free Healthwatch Staffordshire hotline on 0800 051 8371 or go to www.healthwatchstaffordshire.co.uk

Transforming Cancer and End of Life Care Programme

Four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – Stoke-on-Trent, Cannock Chase, Stafford and Surrounds and North Staffs – are working with Macmillan Cancer Support, NHS England and local authorities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to transform cancer and end of life care. The programme is about radically changing both the commissioning and delivery of cancer and end of life care, so that care is integrated, co-ordinated and personalised around people's needs. This is the first programme of its scale for cancer and end of life care and has been announced as one of 14 national NHS pioneer sites for integrated care in England. One of the guiding principles that underpin the programme is working in partnership with patients, carers, doctors and other health professionals to make sure that in the future the treatment and care provided in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is the best in the UK.

Aims

The principle of the programme is simple: We want cancer and end of life care in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to be world-leading. This means:

- Care is tailored to individuals
- It is easier to find support
- No one falls through the gaps
- People will be able to die where they wish
- People are given the right support at the right time, no matter where they live in the county
- Doctors, nurses and other health and social care professionals are able to look after patients to the best of their ability, without being hampered by an uncoordinated system, including being able to communicate more easily
- Doctors, nurses and other health and social care professionals will be able to plan care with confidence that the services are in place where and when they are needed.
- The NHS will have sustainable, high-quality, services, that co-ordinate well together and make the best possible use of the resources that are available



Procurement Process

Plans to transform end of life care across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent over the next decade have reached an important milestone with the start of the official procurement process to appoint a Prime Provider to co-ordinate the provision of services in a more integrated and seamless way.

The process will follow standard NHS England and European Union rules for procurement in the public sector.

The first stage is the issuing of a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, for completion by any organisation or consortia interested in becoming the Prime Provider.

A similar, parallel exercise designed to transform cancer care across the geographical area started in June 2014. Commenting on the start of the procurement process, Andrew Donald, Accountable Officer for Cannock Chase and Stafford and Surrounds CCGs said:

“Patients and the public across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have told us that they believe end of life care can be improved by making it more “joined up and seamless.

“The vast majority of local people are happy with the care they receive from their individual doctors, nurses, consultants and specialists but they complain about getting lost in the system, having to repeat themselves all the time, and care not always factoring in their personal circumstances.

“Rather than have several organisations each commissioning individual services on individual contracts, we are bringing this all together and plan to appoint one lead organisation or consortia to be the Prime Provider responsible for co-ordinating end of life care in new ways, to improve outcomes and meet patients expectations.

“This is the start of an exciting journey that will take 10 years to complete and will make end of life care in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent among the best in Europe”



Dr Jonathan Shapiro

Expert Appointment Excited about Transforming Care

Integrated healthcare expert and respected academic, Dr Jonathan Shapiro, has joined the Transforming Cancer and End of Life Care Programme as Macmillan Director of Clinical Engagement.

Dr Shapiro brings a wealth of experience to the role and says he is excited by the challenge and motivated by improving patients' experience.

Initially starting his career as a GP Dr Shapiro has been the chair of a large mental health trust, a senior lecturer at Birmingham University and is currently the chair of an international health development charity. He is passionate about the importance of integrating healthcare and ensuring the best possible outcomes for patients, carers and families.

Dr Shapiro said: “This is exactly the sort of programme that excites me. We know that patients and carers are telling us that things are not as they should be – they get lost in the system, they have to tell their story several times and they don't know where to turn to for the right support.

“This programme is all about improving patient experience, but we can't do that without continuing the work we have already done in talking to healthcare professionals and clinical leaders within the county and beyond, and I am looking forward to playing my part.”

Justine Palin, Macmillan Programme Director said: “We are delighted to welcome Jonathan to the team. His unrivalled expertise in working across different sectors and culture in the NHS means that he will be a real asset when it comes to working with our healthcare colleagues across the county.

“His appointment demonstrates our continued determination to ensure that the Transforming Cancer and End of Life Programme is successful, both in terms of patient outcomes but also in terms of making life better for people who work within the NHS.”