



## Clinical Commissioning Groups announce preferred provider of New Community Services

In the last bulletin we explained that the existing contracts for community services was due to expire and we were working with potential providers to procure new community services. Following a comprehensive tender and evaluation process, the 3 CCGs would like to announce that they have chosen County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust ( CDDFT) as the preferred provider of new community services which will start in October 2018 as per the agreed timeline.



We want to grow and improve local community services across County Durham and Darlington and have a legal duty to carry out re-procurement exercises for contracts for healthcare in the community to ensure that healthcare constantly meets expected levels of quality and that it continues to represent best value.

This approach is in line with our vision of developing an Integrated Community Service as part of our Five Year Forward View plans to improve access, continuity and coordination of community based health and care services for the local population.

We are very much looking forward to building on the strong foundations that are already in place with CDDFT. We will be looking at what's working well and strengthening that so that our team of healthcare professionals are focused around providing excellent care for everyone in the community.

We will be working in a new way with CDDFT to develop the existing community services, to prevent unnecessary acute hospital attendance and support people to stay well in their own homes. This new way of working will include bringing health and social care organisations closer together and moving from reactive care to prevention models that look at early intervention. We want to improve the quality of services for local people by supporting multidisciplinary teams for those with complex needs and ensuring all services in place are financially sustainable in the long term.

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Sue Jacques, Chief Executive of CDDFT said: “We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded the contract for community services. We truly believe this is a great opportunity to work differently with our health and social care partners across County Durham and Darlington which will bring real improvements to both patient care and also the overall health and wellbeing of our local communities.

“Our experience of providing community services over previous years gives us a fantastic foundation on which to build and we know we have a dedicated and highly skilled workforce ready to take on this new challenge.

“We will be working closely with GPs, local authority and voluntary sector colleagues as well as our patients and local communities to deliver services fit for the future.”

### **So what will be different?**

Patients don't need to do anything differently, but we hope that they will notice an improvement in coordination with one provider overseeing care and joint working between professionals responsible for their care. We want to avoid duplication and improve services by helping clinical staff in different organisations to work even more closely together to support patients to achieve outcomes which matter to them. We want to see care being delivered closer to home as that's what patients have told us that they want.

We will be involving local partners to support various joint projects to ensure local quality and safe treatment and care continues to be delivered for patients.

Existing patients will receive information about the new community service ahead of its launch in October 2018 outlining any changes and improvements.

Commissioning community health services in a partnership approach is key to ensuring we achieve a robust, safe, value for money services for communities across Durham and Darlington.

Visit the CCG's websites

[Darlington](#)

[Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield](#)

[North Durham](#)

for more information about the community services re-procurement, including a list of frequently asked questions and previous briefings.