

30 August 2011

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 1 September 2011**

**Latest news from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust**

**New Partnership Trust launched**

Residents of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent now have a new NHS provider of health services, following the launch today (1 September 2011) of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust.

Dr Nigel Ratcliffe, Chairman of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust said: “Today is an important date for the community, our stakeholders, partners and staff. A tremendous amount of work has gone into realising the vision of creating a new organisation that will deliver quality and personalised health care to local people enabling them to remain independent.

“I would like to thank everyone who has been involved including local residents who have participated in consultation events and helped shape the new organisation and the services that we provide.

“It is important to emphasise that all our services will continue to be provided by the same staff in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, in the community, in prisons and in patients’ homes. As the key provider of community services in Staffordshire we will continue to work closely with a range of partners including local GPs, local authorities and other NHS organisations to offer the very best care.”

In line with the government directive for local NHS services to separate their structures into provision and commissioning arms, the Partnership Trust has brought together in the region of 5,000 staff from three NHS organisations – NHS Stoke-on-Trent, NHS North Staffordshire and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust.

Stuart Poynor, Chief Executive said: “Our development plans don’t stop here. Over the next few months we will be recruiting a membership comprising of local people, who will play a very important role in helping us to shape, develop and deliver services.

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“We are determined to transform the way care is delivered to patients and service users in Staffordshire and are in advanced talks with Staffordshire County Council to integrate health and social care which will give people one point of access to their care.”

Pat Roberts, a Patient Council member welcomed the establishment of the organisation and said: “The development of an independent provider organisation should bring benefits to patients, acting as the connection and interface between all health services, helping to pull everything together and promoting joined up thinking when planning and delivering services.

“I also see the new organisation as the catalyst for all other services ensuring that above all else a patient remains independent whether that is in their own home or in a nursing or care home. This will avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and ultimately provide value for money for patients.”

Pat added: “It is excellent that the Partnership Trust is consulting widely and involving patients and carers in their set up.”

The creation of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust required formal approval by the Secretary of State for Health which was given in August.

Stuart concluded: “Independence as a Trust brings many benefits to the way in which the organisation can work, with greater freedom to be flexible to local needs. We can therefore be more responsive to what our service users tell us they want and need.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust is a new established forward thinking organisation committed to providing high quality, safe and effective services to patients and service users which are simple to access and easy to navigate your way around.

The Partnership Trust is one of the largest Partnership Trusts in England and serves a population of 1.1 million people and employs in the region of 5,000 staff. It is located within the geographical boundaries of Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council and contains a number of urban centres including Stoke-on-Trent, Leek, Burton upon Trent, Cannock, Lichfield, Stafford, Tamworth and Wombourne, although the geographic area is largely rural.

We deliver services in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, in the community, in prisons and in patients’ homes. Our services include district nursing, health visiting, nutrition and dietetics, occupational and physiotherapy therapy, school nursing and speech and language therapy.

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