**For immediate release**

**31 July 2012**

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

**Trust Launches Consultation into Future Plans**

People living in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are being urged to have their say into the future plans of the organisation which provides their community health and adult social care services.

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust is the country’s largest provider of integrated community health and social care services and is consulting about plans to improve services and build links with local people by becoming an NHS Foundation Trust.

Foundation trusts are part of the NHS but have more freedom from central government control to work with local people to develop services they need. By signing up as members, local people and service users can work with us to help improve services.

The Partnership Trust provides services such as district nursing, health visiting, social work assessment, occupational therapy and physiotherapy in a variety of settings including community hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, the community, prisons and in patients’ homes.

During the next 12 weeks staff from the Partnership Trust will be out and about speaking to our local communities through public meetings, presentations to local groups and stands at major community events.

Stuart Poynor, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: “Our aim is to transform the way care is delivered to local people with an integrated and proactive approach to supporting people with long term conditions.

“We are a new Trust and this exciting new phase offers us the opportunity to both simplify care for people in Staffordshire but also deliver the key strategic priorities around improved quality, patient and service user experience and the ability to focus on prevention and promoting independence.

He added: “I am extremely pleased to launch our consultation which will give everyone an excellent opportunity to have their say on our plans. This will not only include our proposals for new governance arrangements once we are authorised, but our plans for the transformation and improvement of services – an integral part of our long-term vision for the Trust. “

Professor Nigel Ratcliffe, Chairman of the Trust, said: “We hope as many people as possible put forward their feedback and consider becoming a member of the new Foundation Trust to play a really important part in our future.

“We, as a Trust, believe that becoming a Foundation Trust is the best way for us to fulfil our exciting plans for local health and social care services. Our increased accountability to local people will truly make us “better together”, and allow people with an interest in the NHS to become directly involved in influencing how it delivers care. We hope you will agree that this is a wonderful opportunity for local people and for health and social care services.”

To find out more and to sign up as a member log on to www.staffordshireandstokeontrent.nhs.uk

**Notes to editors**

* Pictures Captions
* Picture 1:
* Public Consultation Meetings – A series of public meetings are planned as part of the consultation and are scheduled as follows:

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| **15 August (2-4pm)****East Staffordshire**East Staffordshire Borough Council, Town Hall – Blantyre & Weaver Rooms, King Edward Place, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, DE14 2EB | **24 August (3-5pm)****South Staffordshire** Wombourne Civic Centre (The Council Chamber), Gravel Hill, Wombourne, South Staffordshire WV59HA |
| **29 August (12-2pm)****Staffordshire Moorlands** Foxlowe Community Arts Centre (Downstairs Gallery), Market Place, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6AD | **06 September (11am-1pm)****Stoke on Trent** The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (The Learning Suite), Bethesda Street, Cultural Quarter, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3DW |
| **20 September (11:30am-1:30pm)****Stafford** Stafford Civic Centre (The Craddock Room), Stafford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, ST16 3AQ | **27 September (10am-12noon)****Lichfield** The Guildhall (The Guildroom), 38 Bore Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6LU |
| **03 October (4:30-6:30pm)****Tamworth** Tamworth Community Fire Station (The Community Room), Malborough Way, Belgrave, Tamworth, B77 2NW (*sat nav users use B77 2LF*) | **08 October (5-7pm)****Cannock Chase** Cannock Leisure Centre (Downstairs Meeting Room), Stafford Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 4AL |
| **10 October (4-6pm)****Newcastle under Lyme** Newcastle-under-Lyme Community College (The Auditorium), Knutton Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2GB | **12 October (5-7pm)****Cheshire (Out of Area)**South Cheshire College (Large Classroom), Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8AB |

**Issued by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, 2nd Floor, Morston House, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1QG**

**Photographers are very welcome to attend any of the events.**

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