### NEWS RELEASE 12 September 2012

**Joint Services Review Update**

More work needs to be done before a short-list of healthcare options can be finalised prior to further public engagement and consultation. That was the conclusion following a meeting of NHS Worcestershire’s Joint Services Review (JSR) today (Wednesday 12 September).

Leaders of the NHS in Worcestershire met to review all of the work to date including public feedback and the advice of senior clinicians (doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals). Significant progress was made and the leaders agreed that more information was needed on some complex issues discussed during the meeting. Some of the published models include the possibility of certain services at one or more hospitals being delivered in alternative ways.  The JSR wants to look more closely at the potential implications and consequences of these alternative arrangements.

Commenting on the meeting NHS Worcestershire chief executive, Eamonn Kelly, said “It is so important that we get this right for local people. Good progress is being made. We remain committed to finding the best possible combination of high quality, safe, accessible, sustainable and affordable services for the people who use the NHS in Worcestershire, now and in the future. This will have implications for our timetable but we have said all along that rather than sticking to a rigid plan we would be flexible. ”

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

The main focus of the Joint Services Review is on acute hospital services, but it will also look at the wider health and care system, particularly in relation to specific pathways of care between the acute hospitals and community and primary care.

Clinicians from the county’s NHS organisations – NHS Worcestershire, the three Clinical Commissioning Groups, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust –lead the review, and there is a commitment to ensure that the process is carried out with integrity - open, honest, inclusive and timely. Patients, professionals, public and partners will be involved throughout.

The Joint Services Review aims to identify, assess and then consult on options for improvement for how hospital and linked services are delivered. It is anticipated that there will be a three-month period of formal public consultation starting in November.

There is agreement across the NHS, and our other partners within local authorities and elsewhere, that ‘no change’ is not an option. The approach will be to look for improvement and ensure sustainability. Our approach to involvement is 'no decision about me, without me' so this is a great opportunity for local people to get involved'.

For more information please contact the Joint Services Review Communications Team on 01905 733988

Out of hours 12-9-12 0nly 07931405835

Comments, feedback and suggestions: <http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved-or-find-out-more/get-in-touch/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/worcsnhsjsr>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WorcsNHSJSR>