**Trust introduces new Intravenous Therapy Service as part of the Transforming Community Services Programme**

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) has introduced a new Intravenous Therapy (IV) Service, as part of the Transforming Community Services Programme, so that patients can receive this treatment within their homes.

IV Therapy is the infusion of medication directly into the vein and whilst orthopaedic patients have previously received this service in their own home as part of their care, other patients would have remained as an inpatient in hospital.

Since the transfer of community services to the Trust in April 2011, the Trust has focused on transforming community services with an aim of reducing the overlap between hospital and community services. This focus has resulted in new services being developed, such as the IV service, which aims to deliver care in the most appropriate setting.

Delivering care within patient homes is often the preferred location for the patient to receive their care and relieves the pressure on the hospital setting. It is not always appropriate to treat patients in hospital if they do not require specialised, hospital treatment and this project ensures that patients are treated safely within their own homes.

The new IV service allows this treatment to be delivered by specialist staff, safely within a patient’s own home. Previously, patients would have to make numerous journeys to the hospital to receive this care, sometimes on more than one occasion each week. Some patients also have to remain in hospital to continue to receive this treatment and with the introduction of this new service will be able to be safely discharged from the hospital into the care of community staff. GPs are also able to refer directly into this service to avoid patients from being admitted to hospital unnecessarily.

**Sandra Milbourne, Warwick Locality Manager said “**We recognised the pressure it was having on our patients, especially those who were keen to be discharged home or patients who had to visit the hospital daily to receive this medication. Feedback from our patients shows that they much prefer to receive their care at home and it is fantastic that we are able to continue to develop services to allow this to be possible.”

**Glen Burley, Chief Executive said “**The Transforming Community Services Programme has delivered some fantastic improvements and continues to develop out of hospital services such as the home IV service. This project demonstrates how we are joining-up hospital and community care to make improvements for our patients.”