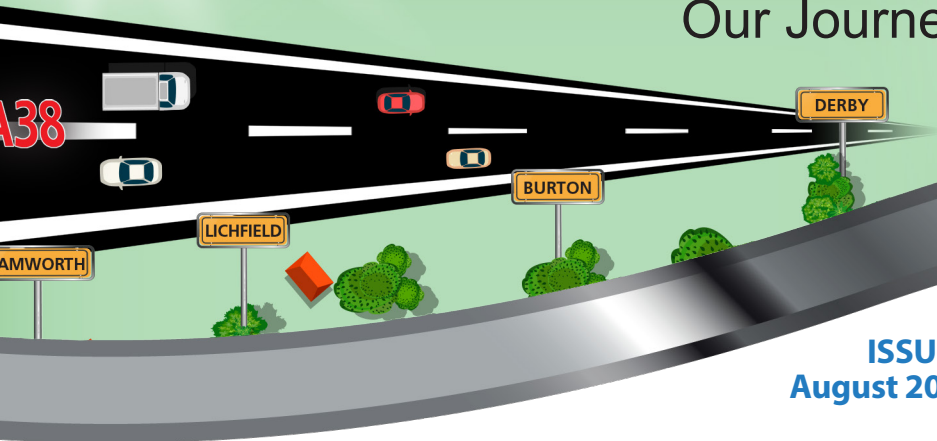


Burton & Derby Collaboration Update

Our Journey Towards Outstanding



ISSUE 5
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Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of our newsletter aiming to keep you informed about how Burton Hospitals and Derby Teaching Hospitals are planning to work more closely together. Burton and Derby Hospitals have a history of successful joint working, and during 2016 discussions took place about developing this further. These discussions aimed to answer three key questions:

- *Would a partnership between Burton and Derby improve the quality and scope of services for both populations?*
- *Would a partnership improve the financial position of both hospitals?*
- *What type of partnership would be the best way to deliver these improvements?*

The boards of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have approved the Outline Business Case for a proposed merger between the two organisations. Our Outline Business Case is available at:
www.burtonderbycollaboration.co.uk

The Full Business Case is now being developed, with engagement and input from staff, governors, patients and the public, over the coming months. So, your views are very important to us. This Full Business Case will then be considered by both Trust boards later this year.

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Nurses experience the benefits of #BD2gether

Nurses and midwives from both of our Trusts joined together for the first time to get a real taste of how bringing the best together will benefit both patients and staff. Ninety eight senior ward sisters, charge nurses, lead midwives, matrons, senior nurses and midwives attended the first joint Senior Sister/ Matron Masterclass, which was held on 30 June.

The event reinforced to staff how our collaboration is a true partnership of equals and left them with a greater understanding and appreciation of the benefits of bringing the two trusts together. What became clear to everyone was that both sets of staff are facing the same challenges and by joining together we can significantly transform patient care.

#BD2gether is now the buzz phrase that is being used by many of our inspired staff who are looking forward to the exciting possibilities that a proposed merger will deliver. This includes patient improvements to stroke services, opportunities to get a broader experience, job swaps and secondment opportunities.

As well as meeting their colleagues from Burton and Derby, the nurses and midwives were able to express their concerns and receive reassurances about the future in an open and honest discussion. The Trusts' commitment to retaining a vibrant district

general hospital in Burton was especially highlighted, keeping and improving the services we offer as part of that, including A&E. The event helped nurses to feel involved and empowered as they received the clear message that staff will have a key role to play in helping to shape the future.

Everyone attending took part in key discussions around safe staffing, quality of care, clinical leadership, managing risk and ensuring the health and wellbeing of staff.

The level of energy and enthusiasm in the room that day was so great that all the delegates got up to dance to a special rendition of the Blues Brothers' 'Shake a Tail Feather'. Clearly, there will be much to celebrate if the proposed merger goes ahead as patient care will significantly improve.

The two Senior Sisters from Cardiology highlighted how they had already been working together and were excited at the prospects of improving the quality of care that patients receive. Maternity sisters have also been actively working together and are excited about the impact that will have on patient services.

"It was inspiring to see a room of Senior Nurses, from two organisations, discussing how they can work together to improve patient care and the overall patient experience," says Donna Bird, Deputy Chief Nurse at Burton Hospitals NHS

Foundation Trust. "The energy in the room was fantastic. I am confident that those initial conversations will lead to exciting improvements for patients," adds Donna.

"The day was extremely positive and motivating with a selection of activities and discussion, encouraging delegates to network, share and connect with their counterparts," says Karen Hill, Senior Nurse (Professional Development) at Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. "This was the beginning of our collaborative journey of creating opportunities, and going forward we will continue to build on this great start to ensure we maximise our nursing and midwifery workforce across Burton and Derby to deliver high quality, safe care to the population we serve."

The masterclass was jointly hosted by Paula Gardner, Chief Nurse at Burton Hospitals & Jim Murray, Acting Director of Patient Experience and Chief Nurse at Derby Teaching Hospitals. "This special event really captured so much of the spirit in which teams from both Trusts are working together to explore how we can deliver outstanding care for our patients," says Jim Murray.

Our commitment is to create many more opportunities where staff from both Trusts, in a range of different department and specialities and at all levels, can experience the benefits of #BD2gether.



Mythbusters



Here we reveal the true facts around some of the claims made about our proposed merger.

Myth 1 - We will lose services at Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth

FALSE - We are clear that this collaboration is based on the principle of improving and enhancing local services and this is what we will focus on as the work goes forward. For Queen's Hospital in Burton, our fundamental principle is that we will retain a vibrant district general hospital in the town, keeping and improving the services we offer as part of that, including A&E.

There may be one or two exceptions where we feel that patients will be better served by a move to Derby, such as hyper-acute stroke. However, the over-riding principle is to sustain and improve services at Queen's and make better use of our community hospitals in Derby, Lichfield and Tamworth.

The hyper-acute stroke example has been discussed openly for some time, as we know we are not ideally placed to continue offering this service and patients will benefit from improved outcomes as a result of the move. This specific case will be subject to a public consultation, led by our commissioner.

In Lichfield and Tamworth, we think there is an opportunity for our community hospitals to offer some different services that recognise the changing needs of the two populations. These services would be heavily aligned with the local GPs and will offer more diagnostic work and specialist outpatients, as well as potentially more day case procedures (including specialist clinics such as spine, from Derby consultants) and more locally-focused end of life care.

We are also looking at our local urgent care services, including the role of our Minor Injuries Units and better alignment with local GPs, as part of the Staffordshire STP work across the county which aims to support people with place-based care.

Myth 2 – A merger will increase the levels of privatisation

FALSE - Patients and the public can be assured that the proposed merger is not about privatisation at all and we have no plans to privatise services. Both Trusts

are NHS organisations and rather than privatising services a merger would in fact strengthen, sustain and improve NHS services that are all free at the point of delivery.

Myth 3 – The merger is threatening staff jobs and will impact on their terms and conditions.

FALSE - Our partnership is based on the principle of sustaining local services across Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and our workforce is absolutely key to delivering these. Indeed, one of the key challenges that both Trusts face at the moment lies in not being able to recruit enough clinical staff at varying levels, which means there are lots of opportunities now, and in the future, for people to grow their careers with us and to also come and work for us. We are also in the early stages of developing our plans to bring together certain "shared services", such as Finance and Human Resources, among others, as our ambition is to create an outstanding support service across South Derbyshire and Staffordshire for our clinical teams.

We will be working through these plans in the coming months and talking with staff as they develop. We may look at some roles as part of this to ensure we are not duplicating skills and services, but we will do all we can to retain talented staff and where changes are necessary, we aim to achieve the majority of this through natural turnover (for example, if someone chooses to retire) and redeployment.

We will be talking with our staff to ensure they are kept fully informed about any changes, as well as the opportunities on offer, and there will be a timeline set out once we are further along the path to the Full Business Case.

Myth 4 – The merger will create further pressure on remaining hospital services

FALSE - The whole reason for a proposed merger is to help take the pressures off hospital services and continue to improve them.

times in A&E, and for some orthopaedic and cancer treatments, as well as significant financial challenges and some recruitment issues. So it makes sense for us to explore ways to work together, and differently, to improve the quality of care we offer, whilst also making savings. As part of this, we also want to look at how we can best use our combined buildings and facilities. While these are all significant challenges, we believe that by working more closely together we have a much better chance of addressing and overcoming them, for the benefit of our combined local populations.

Myth 5 – There is a lack of transparency in the process.

FALSE - We are fully committed to transparency, which is demonstrated by the fact that our full unabridged outline business case has been available to everyone since it was approved. You can download the full document at www.burtonderbycollaboration.co.uk

We are continuing to look at ways of ensuring that staff, governors, patients, their families and carers, as well as the general public, have a direct say in helping us to shape the future.

The full business case is now being developed with engagement and input from staff, governors, patients and the public, over the coming months. So, local people's views are very important to us. We have launched a new website on the collaboration which has all the key information and encourages everyone to have their say and give us valuable feedback. We are also attending a wide range of key stakeholder meetings which involve patients, Councillors, GPs, local MPs, our commissioner partners, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Healthwatch organisations. We recently attended the Healthwatch AGM in Staffordshire which was attended by many local patients and we are also open to any invitations from community groups and organisations who would like us to attend their meetings.

Please visit www.burtonderbycollaboration.co.uk/getting-involved.

Engaging Communities helps patients have their say

We are currently contacting all those patients who have expressed an interest in becoming involved as a patient representative as part of the clinical review process which we are currently undertaking to support the development of the Burton/Derby collaboration. Our next steps will be to help match people to the right involvement activity and we have commissioned Engaging Communities Staffordshire to take this important work forward on our behalf.

Patients are at the heart of everything we do and your views are pivotal in helping us to develop the Full Business Case which will be published later this year. To help us do this, Engaging Communities Staffordshire will be working with us to ensure that we hear the views, opinions and concerns from local people, especially those in our traditionally hard to reach communities.

Engaging Communities Staffordshire is an independent, not for profit, community interest company that works to give the public a voice in the way services are delivered. Their aim is to always support the voice of the community and to offer an effective way for people to be involved in the services that provide for their health and social care needs. We are delighted to be benefiting from their expertise and wide knowledge and look forward to working with them.



Get the latest from our new website

You can get the latest news on our collaboration and find out more about the benefits at our new website at www.burtonderbycollaboration.co.uk. Here, you can watch an animated video which shows how our developing partnership is good news for patients. You can also download a copy of the Outline Business Case, read more about the case for change and be reassured our answers to frequently asked questions.

Give us your feedback

We really welcome people's comments, opinions and questions on our plans for the proposed merger as we want to make sure that we reflect local views as we move forward. Please help us by completing our online questionnaire at www.burtonderbycollaboration.co.uk/getting-involved/

Next Steps

A Full Business Case is now being developed, with engagement and input from staff, governors, patients and the public, over the coming months. The Full Business Case will then be considered by both Trust boards later this year.

The Trusts are seeking to form a new organisation together that will provide sustainable hospital services of outstanding quality for patients and their families.