



Health & Social Care Moray

Media release

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Reshaping care programme launched in the Forres locality

An ambitious transformational change programme is underway to develop a new joined-up model of safe, effective and sustainable care and support for older people living in the Forres locality.

Health and Social Care Moray is bringing together staff, GPs, the third and independent sectors, voluntary groups and the local community to identify improved ways of working which lead to better health, better care and better value.

The reshaping care programme will initially focus on identifying opportunities for older people - particularly those who are dependent on others for support or are at high risk of a crisis which would lead to hospital admission – to be cared for at home or in the community, minimising the need for inpatient care.

With increasing life expectancy, more people are now living longer in poor health with multiple long term conditions. Inevitably the need for health and social care is increasing and GPs, hospitals, service providers and community groups are finding themselves under rising pressure to meet demand.

Financial constraint means funding is under constant pressure to be used in ways which maximise benefits for patients, service users and their families and deliver value for the public pound by using resources in a more sustainable and integrated ways.

The majority of older people tell us they want to remain living at home for as long as possible, said Chief Officer Pam Gowans.

“They want to receive care and support at home and in their local community which enables them to stay as well and independent as they can and to live as good a life as possible without the need for hospital admission,” she said.

Evidence has shown that if people remain in hospital longer than they need to it can have a negative impact on their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

“Too often people are in hospital when they don’t need or want to be there because the alternatives to hospital care are not available,” Mrs Gowans added.



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“We are embarking on this programme to look for affordable alternative solutions which enable us to create a new model of care and support which is driven by our ambition to do better for the people of the Forres locality and responds to their aspirations.

“This will involve taking a long hard look at how we address a number of challenges including pressure on funding, growing demand for services, a shortage of some groups of staff and outdated buildings which are no longer fit for purpose and are costly to maintain. We need to be able to redirect resources to where they will have the most benefit.”

The reshaping care programme seeks to respond to the views of service users, families, the community and those involved in providing health and social care services and support.

Building on previous community engagement events held in Forres in 2017, a further series of co-production workshops are planned for February, April and June to gather ideas, identify priorities and explore opportunities for transformation.

A drop-in information event will take place on Monday 26 February from 3-6pm, followed by the first workshop on Wednesday 28 February from 7-9pm, both in Forres Town Hall.

An information leaflet is also being produced and will be distributed to groups and venues in the area.

A core project group of stakeholders will be responsible for taking forward the feedback from the workshops and considering options before identifying a preferred option for the new model and presenting this to the community for review.

Further consultation will be held on the preferred option before a decision to implement is made by the Moray Integration Joint Board which has responsibility for joining up a range of community health and social care services which have been delegated to it by Moray Council and NHS Grampian.

Christine Lester, chair of the board, said: “This programme will be taken forward in partnership and I would urge all those with an interest in the health and wellbeing of the people of the Forres locality to get involved.”

Further information is available by contacting Health & Social Care Moray on 01343 567187 or emailing involvement@moray.gov.uk.

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