

Press Release

September 9th 2014

Further Cannock Minor Injuries Unit Consultation Meeting Announced

Health bosses have organised a further evening meeting as part of the consultation into the Cannock Minor Injuries Unit - in response to public feedback.

Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) held the first consultation meeting last week where the public flagged that they wanted to see a further evening meeting arranged in Cannock.

The CCG listened and announced today that another meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th September at the Civic Ballroom at Cannock Chase District Council, between 6pm and 8pm, which the public are invited to attend.

The CCG want to engage with as many stakeholders, patients and members of the public as possible on their proposal to operate a reduce hours service at the Minor Injuries Unit. The CCG's preferred option is to retain the unit but reduce its opening hours so that it remains open when patients use it the most. It comes after CCG data shows the number of patients attending the unit drops significantly after 7pm.

A consultation document outlining the background and context to the proposal in more detail and the way in which stakeholders and the public can feed back their views has been produced.

The public and stakeholders are invited to attend the public meetings below so they can share their views on the proposal:

- **Wednesday September 10th 2014, 10am – 12 noon**, The Aquarius Ballroom, Victoria Shopping Park, Hednesford, WS12 1BT
- **Thursday September 18th 2014, 6pm – 8pm**, Rugeley Rose Theatre and Community Hall, Taylors Lane, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2AA
- **Wednesday September 24th, 6pm – 8pm**, Civic Ballroom, Cannock Chase Council, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1BG

CCG Chairman Dr Johnny McMahon said: "We have listened to public feedback and arranged an evening meeting in Cannock for later this month and I would urge people to attend so they can really have their say. The public also told us they wanted to see more information communicated about the range of health services available and as a result we are advertising them this week in a series of newspapers. As we head towards the autumn and into winter, as a CCG, we will

ensure that we continue to promote the health services available to the public of Cannock and surrounding areas, in a range of ways.

He added: "In terms of the consultation I would urge as many people as possible to book a place and attend one of our meetings so they have chance to feed into the consultation process and into the final decision. We are using a range of ways to engage with people as part of the consultation, via face to face meetings, through an on-line survey and people can also fill in a hard copy of the consultation document which they can request a copy of."

To book a place at one of the events, request a hard copy of the document, or to find out more please email miu.feedback@staffordshireccs.nhs.uk or call 0300 404 2999 ext: 6852

You will also be able to find out more detail and fill in an on-line consultation survey at our website www.cannockchaseccg.nhs.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- Cannock Minor Injury Unit (MIU) was opened at Cannock Chase Hospital in 2006 and is run by Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust (SSOTP). It is a Nurse-Led Minor Injury Unit which is open seven days a week, 365 days a year from 8am until midnight. Access to the unit is open and people can walk in, be seen and treated without the need for an appointment. The 'Out of Hours' service (OOH) also operates from the same site, in a different part of the hospital, 6:30pm until midnight with further service being supported from the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Manor Hospital site from midnight until 8am.
- In the past few years the MIU has seen an influx of patients seeking treatment for minor illness. Patients have arrived to get treatment for illnesses like asthma, toothache, headaches and earaches, which the MIU was not set up to treat. Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) information shows that up to 40% of cases at the unit are for minor illnesses, which could be treated by a GP, at a community pharmacy or by self-care in the home.
- Nearly one in four of all patients who come to the MIU are sent to another NHS service for further treatment because the unit does not have access to X-ray equipment or other tests and as it is nurse led there are no doctors on site. There is also no access to a hospital doctor if further medical advice is needed. For these services, and other services, patients are sent on to Accident and Emergency (A&E) at another hospital. This means that patients are seen in two different places unnecessarily and, as well as being inconvenient for the patients themselves this also leads to extra costs for the CCG.
- The MIU's current opening hours are from 8am until midnight. The CCG's proposal would be to reduce the hours so that it opens between 11am and 7pm. CCG data shows that the majority of patients use the unit during certain time periods and the numbers attending reduce after 7pm.

