

RE-SETTING HEALTHCARE IN CORBY: THE CASE FOR CHANGE

NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for ensuring health services are in place which:

- Meet the healthcare needs of the people of Corby
- Are of the right quality and in line with national standards and policy
- Are affordable and sustainable within available resources

The CCG is fully committed to involving patients and public in the decisions we make. That is why we have begun a conversation about major challenges the local NHS is facing.

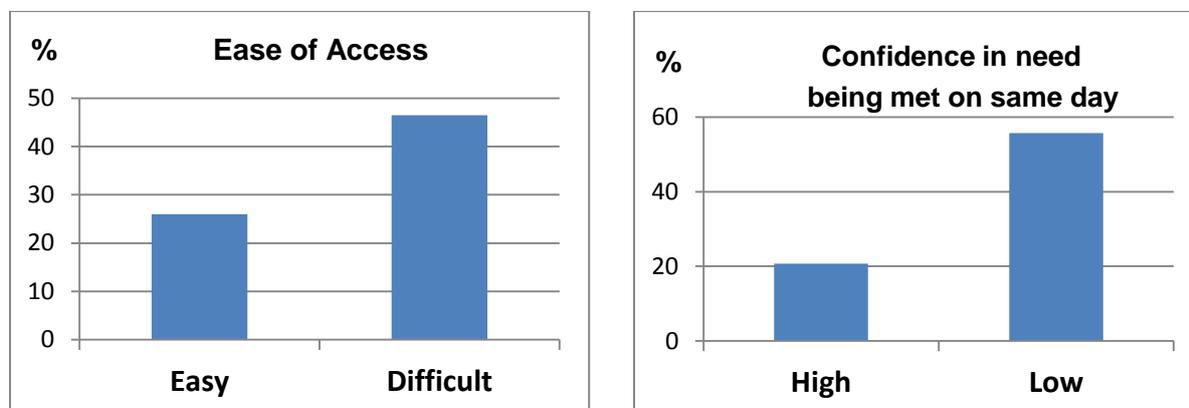
These issues can only be addressed if there are changes in the way some services are delivered. We want to explain why change is necessary and to listen to your views. This will lead to a full public consultation in the coming months.

It's also part of a wider discussion with people across Northamptonshire, as part of the county's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). The STP's aim is to ensure that all health and social care services remain effective and affordable as needs change.

No decisions will be taken about the future of services until local people have had the opportunity to have their say on what should happen.

General Practice services (primary care)

Almost 700 people took part in a CCG survey in early 2017. Results varied significantly between practices, but the overall response shows concern about access to GP services:



Corby results from the annual NHS Patient Survey have also highlighted the need to look at the convenience of appointments, waiting times and opening hours.

The number of older people with complex health needs is increasing. Because they know these patients well, General Practice teams are best placed to help them stay well and out of hospital. In doing so, they ease pressure on other parts of the NHS by averting hospital admissions.

General Practice teams need more time to focus on this work, but are already over-stretched.

There is an obvious need to change how GP services operate, to improve access and focus resources where they can have the greatest benefit.

Urgent care

People are uncertain about what is an urgent need. As a result, too many patients are not getting the right care in the right place. Most people using Corby Urgent Care Centre (UCC) could have been treated elsewhere – for example, at their GP surgery. Some with very serious needs had their treatment delayed by not going straight to A&E.

The current shape of services is actually increasing demand for urgent care, rather than reducing it:

- In North Northamptonshire (including Corby), A&E and UCC attendances are 36% higher than in the south of the county
- A&E and UCC attendance rates by Corby people are among the highest in England – and much higher than in other CCGs with a similar population
- In one year:
 - 10 people used Corby UCC more than 300 times between them
 - 32 Corby patients with complex needs attended A&E 350 times
 - 229 Corby patients averaged 7 hospital admissions each, at a cost of almost £5m

The CCG needs to ensure that:

- Patients with a medical need are assessed quickly and treated at the right time, with care that is safe and provided by the right healthcare professional – “right care, first time”.
- Patients with complex health needs have the right ongoing support to avoid the need for urgent care.
- Urgent care services are affordable. The cost of treating UCC patients has increased significantly, meaning the service can only continue in its current form if significant savings are made elsewhere.

Urgent health services in their present form are not working as they should and there are question marks about their long term affordability.

Finances

Corby CCG receives more than £100m a year from the Government to commission (plan and pay for) local health services.

We have a legal responsibility to balance the books, but this is becoming increasingly difficult.

- Rising demand for healthcare constantly adds financial pressure.
- The CCG needs to save £3.5m in 2017/18 under efficiency targets set nationally.
- Recent legal decisions relating to payments for urgent care mean the CCG has to find a further £3.5m.
- The CCG faces difficult short term decisions on where to make savings totalling 7m, in order to meet our statutory obligations for a balanced budget.

Services need to change if they are to be financially sustainable.

Find more information at: www.corbyccg.nhs.uk/current-consultations/

To ask a question or request a presentation by the CCG, email:
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