

Out-of-hospital Strategy Public Summary

"Better health, better care, better value" is Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group's (NHSGYWCCG) overarching aim for their patient's healthcare.

GPs and clinicians leading the decisions about healthcare for the 230,000 population know significant changes need to take place to achieve the aim when planning health services. It is a time of great change with limited finance and a growing older population, dementia on the rise and many of the community living with long-term conditions.

Hospitals are changing too with advances in technology and a drive to treat people as out-patients or in their homes – where they want to be treated, if safe to do so. Care at home should become the norm, if possible, as long as it meets the patient's clinical needs. Patients will recover faster and be in better health at the end of their at-home treatment, as well as freeing up critical hospital bed space. Transferring a patient to a community hospital bed (like Beccles or Halesworth Hospital) would happen where necessary or in an "acute" bed (in a hospital like the James Paget) when essential.

It is acknowledged the role of carers, including family and friends, plays a very crucial role in enabling patients to stay at home.

Those who provide healthcare in the community, including GPs, also need to evolve to reflect these changes. Working together among providers of healthcare – including social care – is vital, so services are joined up, not only to be cost-effective and quicker, but most importantly to ensure the patient has the best experience and treatment possible.

Better health, care and value is also about ensuring services are available and standardised for all patients regardless of where they live, now and in the future.

Out-of-hospital care teams will lead this approach, assessing patients and ensuring services are coordinated. GPs along with community teams, such as district nurses and therapists, will work together to make sure a patient's needs are met in their home, or at another location away from a hospital. This could be a health centre or GP surgery.

Improving the skills of those working outside of hospital will also be a key part so additional needs for patients are possible, such as administering IV therapy at home. And the hours community services will be on offer will also be extended beyond the 8am to 6pm timeframe, as will patient transport for those needing intensive treatment at specialist centres.

NHSGYWCCG will drive this plan forward and promises to make this a priority in the future and one of their key objectives in 2013/14.