

# News release

8 December 2015

## Local health chiefs publish new Healthcare Review timeline

Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes health commissioners have today published a new timeline for the Healthcare Review – a programme which began last year and is looking at ways to improve future local healthcare across both regions.

Over the past few months, the partners to the Healthcare Review<sup>1</sup> and local clinicians have been carrying out detailed analysis of possible future options for the provision of hospital services. This work will continue into 2016, following which we will be gathering views from patients, members of the public, local clinicians and other key stakeholders during February / March 2016. This feedback will be included within the Healthcare Review to inform the detailed business case, which we expect to take to formal public consultation from Summer 2016, with a decision expected to be made by the end of 2016.

Matthew Webb, Acting Chief Officer for Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group (MKCCG) said he was committed to finding the right solution that would meet current and future challenges across both healthcare systems.

“A great deal of effort has gone into reviewing the preferred options that came out of the Healthcare Review Progress Report that was published last year to understand how best to proceed. Together with our Healthcare Review partners, we have agreed to continue to work together to ensure we fully understand the needs of our populations and the implications of any proposed service changes.”

Matthew Tait, Accountable Officer for Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) welcomed the agreed way forward for the Healthcare Review, which aims to ensure that local people have access to the highest quality health and social care, both now and in the future.

“This next phase is about really understanding what change might look like – and whether the options that are being proposed are both financially and clinically sustainable. This includes looking in more detail at things such as travel times and impact on minority groups. Patients and the public have been at the heart of the Review’s work to date and that will continue, so I really encourage people to get involved and have their say when we re-start our engagement activity in the New Year.”

For more information on the Healthcare Review, please see [www.yourhealthinbedfordshire.co.uk](http://www.yourhealthinbedfordshire.co.uk) or [www.shapingmkhealth.co.uk](http://www.shapingmkhealth.co.uk)

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### Notes to editors

<sup>1</sup> Healthcare Review partners are NHS England, Monitor, Trust Development Authority (TDA), Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Bedford Hospital Trust, Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and Milton Keynes NHS University Hospital Foundation Trust.

### For more information, please contact

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