



## Issue 1 Summer 2018

### Welcome to Health Matters

Welcome to our new look news bulletin for local people, partners and stakeholders. As NHS Greater Huddersfield and NHS North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are working more closely together and share a Chief Officer, it makes sense for us to join forces with a single bulletin too. We've made a few changes to the style and content of the publication as well, so we hope you like it.

In this edition you'll find information about a new extended GP access scheme, an initiative designed to improve the experience of care home residents, an update on Right Care, Right Time, Right Place, information about the CCG year end assessment, opportunities to get involved and more.

*Carol, David and Steve*





## GPs are here for you, longer

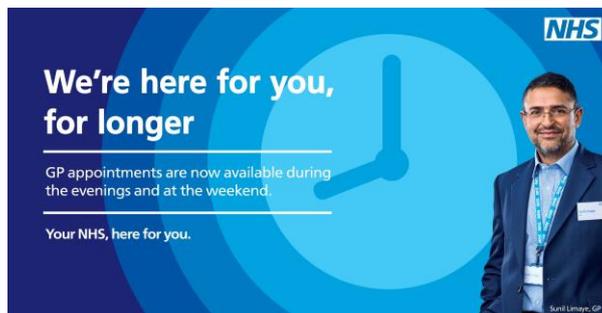
People living in the Kirklees area are now able to visit a GP after work and on weekends under a new scheme that was developed following extensive engagement with local patients.

The scheme was launched in the Greater Huddersfield area at the end of March and will be operational in North Kirklees from this August.

Having additional appointments available during the week and at weekends will be more convenient for many patients, allowing them to visit a GP at a time that fits better with their work and other commitments. It should also reduce pressure on both general practice and hospital emergency departments. The new scheme is being operated by local GP federations working together with out-of-hours provider Local Care Direct.

Patients in the Greater Huddersfield CCG area can also access physiotherapy appointments on evenings and weekends as part of the scheme.

Further information about the scheme in Greater Huddersfield can be found [here](#) and details about the scheme in North Kirklees can be found [here](#).



## 'Red bags' improving experience of care home residents



An innovative scheme, which is being launched locally this month, will help to provide a better hospital experience for care home residents in Kirklees.

When a resident becomes unwell and needs to go to hospital, staff can now pack a dedicated 'red bag' with important paperwork and any medication they are receiving, as well as clothes and other personal items like glasses, slippers and dentures.

The red bags reassure patients that they have everything they need for a hospital stay. They also provide hospital staff with up-to-date information about an individual's health, including any medicine that a patient is taking. When they are discharged from hospital, the bag can also be used by hospital staff to share information with the care home about a patient's treatment, follow up appointments or medicines.

This simple but effective idea is being implemented across Kirklees with funding from the Better Care Fund. The large red bags are being distributed by the CCG to local care homes over the summer.

## Changes to medicines available on prescription

The NHS is making changes to the prescribing of a range of medicines, vitamins and minerals that are available to buy over the counter from pharmacies and supermarkets.

This follows a national consultation and guidance recommending that medicines for a number of minor, short term conditions, which either get better by themselves or can be self-treated by the individual, should no longer be routinely prescribed by GPs.

This includes medicines for coughs, colds, infrequent cold sores of the lip, mild to moderate hayfever, mild cystitis, nappy rash, warts, verrucas, earwax and head lice.

The NHS currently spends around £136 million a year on prescriptions for medicines that can be bought from a pharmacy or supermarket. By reducing the amount the NHS spends on over the

counter medicines, we can give priority to treatments for people with more serious conditions and focus on things that will have the most impact on people's health.

The change will take effect later this year. In line with national guidance, some people will continue to receive these medicines, for example where they are prescribed for long-term or complex conditions.

Further information about the changes will be available in GP practices, on the CCG website and via social media channels. You can find the national guidance including the full list of conditions [here](#)

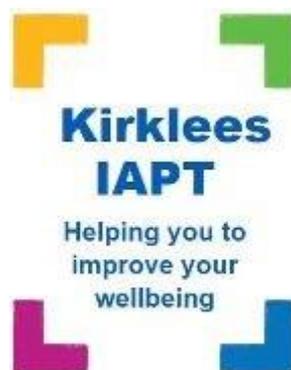


## Right Care, Right Time, Right Place

The Secretary of State has requested that that further work is undertaken in relation to planned changes to hospital and community services in Calderdale and Huddersfield. This follows a referral of the proposals to him by the joint Calderdale and Kirklees scrutiny panel.

The Secretary of State identified three areas which need further consideration - hospital care, hospital capacity and availability of capital. NHS Calderdale and NHS Greater Huddersfield CCGs will continue to work with partners to determine how we can provide additional clarity and address the concerns raised.

## A new way to get mental health and well-being help in Kirklees



People living in Kirklees now have a new way to access information about mental health and well-being. A new Kirklees Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) website provides information about the IAPT team, self-help guides, information about stress management courses, and how you can access help to improve your mental health and long term conditions. If you are feeling stressed, anxious, depressed or just need help with your mental well-being contact the team either through the website [here](#) or by calling **01484 343700**.

## CCG year end assessment

Each year NHS England grades CCGs according to four 'Ofsted-style' headline categories: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement and inadequate.

We're delighted to let you know that for 2017/18 Greater Huddersfield CCG has been graded as **Good**. This is an improvement on last year's assessment of 'Requires Improvement' and reflects the significant work undertaken to improve our financial position and develop local services.

We're also pleased that the rating for North Kirklees CCG remains the same as last year - **Requires Improvement**. This reflects the substantial effort made by the CCG to maintain its performance during what has been a particularly challenging year.

While it's clear that challenges still remain for both of our CCGs, the achievement of these ratings means we are confident that we are delivering on a wide range of work and are focusing on the right things.

You can find out more about these ratings [here](#)



## A step forward for the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership

West Yorkshire and Harrogate  
Health and Care Partnership



A local partnership which was set up to improve health and care services across our region has been given additional freedom and flexibility to manage the delivery of local services.

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership, which is made up of organisations including NHS Greater Huddersfield and NHS North Kirklees CCGs, has been named as one of four more localities which will benefit from the integrated care system programme.

This move puts our area at the forefront of nationwide action to provide better co-ordinated and more joined up care for 2.6 million people. This national recognition for the Partnership is a positive step forward. It will bring control and influence over spending and transformation closer to local people and local places. You can find out more [here](#)

### Event highlights work of diabetes community champions in Kirklees

Healthcare professionals and leading figures from across Kirklees and Diabetes UK, took part in an event earlier this year to highlight the impact of the Diabetes UK community champion programme. The event, which took place at Dewsbury Town Hall, celebrated the success of the one-year project along with the work of the community champions in Kirklees.

Over 24,000 people are diagnosed with diabetes in Kirklees. Diabetes UK, with the support of partners from Kirklees Council and NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG and NHS North Kirklees CCGs have trained 39 community champions from all backgrounds to improve health outcomes for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, who can be two to four times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes. A fifth of Kirklees' population is from BAME communities.

The community champion's help people find out their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, recommend GP appointments where necessary, and raise awareness of the risk factors of the condition. They also support people who are already diagnosed with diabetes to better self-manage the condition. Further information about this can be found [here](#).



1 - Image used by kind permission of Diabetes UK

## Get involved!

### **Come to our Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

NHS North Kirklees CCG's AGM provides an opportunity for members of the public and stakeholders to hear more about the work, key achievement and challenges facing the organisation during the course of the past year. We'll also be formally presenting our Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18. The AGM is open to the public and we'd be delighted to see you there.

The AGM will be taking place on Wednesday 22 August in the Council Chamber, Dewsbury Town Hall from 9.30am.

### **Your GP practice needs you**

Patient Reference Groups have been set up by all local GP practices to give you the opportunity to contribute to the continuing improvement and development of your surgery. Groups are organised in different ways, with some holding regular face-to-face meetings and others communicating via email or social media (virtual groups).

Patient Reference Groups are always keen to welcome new members. If you're interested in joining your surgery's Patient Reference Group, please contact your practice directly for further details about how you can get involved.

### **Give your views on local cancer care**

Are you a cancer patient who has received treatment in our area? The West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance want to find out more about patients' experience of services. New national cancer guidance says that all people diagnosed with cancer should have access to the 'Recovery Package' by 2020. We want to know which parts you were offered, what was useful and beneficial, and your views on how it could be improved.

Please follow this [link](#) to the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance website where you can complete the survey and submit it online. The survey is available until 14 September 2018.

### **Developing intermediate care services**

We're working jointly with Kirklees Council to improve intermediate care services in Kirklees. Intermediate care services provide anyone aged 18 or over with personal care and help with daily activities and other practical tasks for a short period of time, usually for up to six weeks. The services are provided by a team of health and social care professionals such as nurses, care staff and therapists. To help develop our approach, we'd like your views on current service and how they could be improved. Please complete this [short survey](#) to have your say. The final day for completion of the surveys is 19 August 2018

### **Improving wheelchair services**

The CCGs in Calderdale, Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees are looking at how they can improve local wheelchair services. As part of this work, we hosted an event on 11 May to share what people have already told us about services. For more information about our work in this area and a report of findings from the event please visit [this page](#) .

### **Celebrating the NHS at 70**

NHS North Kirklees CCG celebrated the 70th birthday of the NHS at its public engagement event in July. As well as hearing about some of the CCG's recent activities, there was a table-top discussion about how we can all work together to ensure the NHS has another successful 70 years. This culminated in people pledging to do 3 things to support the NHS, which included taking more exercise, going to the pharmacy for advice rather than the GP, joining a local GP practice reference group and buying their own medicines for minor conditions.

The full report of the event can be found [here](#) and information about future activities will be available [here](#). You can also sign up to our 'your health, your say' network to receive regular updates on all our activities as well as invites to future events by contacting [Amanjot.Aujla@northkirkleescg.nhs.uk](mailto:Amanjot.Aujla@northkirkleescg.nhs.uk)

### **Come along to our Governing Body meetings**

The NHS Greater Huddersfield and NHS North Kirklees CCGs hold their monthly meetings in common (in the same place and at the same time). Meetings are in public and include an opportunity for questions from members of the public. You'll find more details of dates and locations and how to submit questions on the CCG websites: [NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG](#) and [NHS North Kirklees CCG](#)



Keep up to date



Take a look at our websites for all the latest news and updates:

[NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG](#)

[NHS North Kirklees CCG](#)