

Together We're Better is your local partnership of NHS, local government and voluntary sector organisations. We are working collectively to make decisions to transform health and care services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Our partners are working closely together to achieve this transformation through a series of work programmes. Each programme is clinically-led and focussed on its own aims and objectives to ensure local people have access to high quality, sustainable services for the future.



Planned Care and Cancer programme

We want to deliver high quality and effective services safely in the right setting, at the right time and with the right health and care professional. We want people living in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to be able to access high quality elective care that is both clinically and financially sustainable. Furthermore, alliances of local providers working across organisational boundaries will deliver efficient health and care that is coordinated and collaborative.

Our priorities and projects

- We're developing seven-day elective centres to ensure improvements in productivity, efficiency and the quality of care
- We're looking to increase the uptake of cancer screening to improve early access and detection
- We're promoting an increase in the uptake of self-care where appropriate
- We're developing a Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent-wide sustainable model for outpatient and day case provision
- We're also committed to developing fully consolidated diagnostic services..

Our aims and outcomes

- By 2020, we want to see a system in place whereby you should only need to attend hospital to receive treatment that cannot be provided elsewhere – community 'triage and treat' services will be expanded, some through GP practices
- You will be empowered and supported to self-care
- We want non-emergency hospital services to be largely separated from the urgent care system, avoiding the cancellation of operations that can result from peaks in demand
- Your care will be delivered through a collaborative and joined up system that is accountable for the delivery of each step of your care, with no 'hand offs' or inconsistency of service.

Case study

How Josie received the physiotherapy she needed at the right time and in the right place:

A long-standing hip problem led to Josie making an appointment to see Paul, a Physiotherapist based at Audley Health Centre in Stoke-on-Trent. Paul holds weekly sessions at three local practices as part of the Physio First scheme. He assessed Josie and gave her hip exercises to do at work and home – as a result, the pain Josie once experienced has subsided. Musculoskeletal (MSK) issues such as Josie's are a key priority for the programme that is being addressed through the First Contact Practitioners (FCP) service – physios with the skills to assess, diagnose and manage patients with MSK problems. FCPs enable patients who would usually see their GP with MSK problems to either refer themselves into existing physiotherapy services or see a practitioner based in general practice. FCP pilots are up and running and will roll out further across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent later in 2019.

