

Press Release

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Local health organisations team up to provide better care for patients

A new alliance of local healthcare organisations has been formed in South Worcestershire to reduce unnecessary emergency admissions and improve the overall care for older and more vulnerable patients.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust -the county's main provider of community and mental health services- and Stay Well Healthcare -the GP Federation representing practices in South Worcestershire- is creating a new service to deliver better care for older people aged over 75 and those deemed more vulnerable. Ultimately its aim is to reduce unnecessary emergency admissions.

The Alliance was formed in August 2014 but won't go live until April this year. Through funding from the South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, it will tighten the links between GPs and community nursing services, which are provided by the Health and Care Trust, and will ensure better co-ordination between services, as well as giving patients more choice and control over the care they receive. This service will better enhance and support the community services already provided in South Worcestershire.

Melanie Roberts, Community Care Service Delivery Unit Lead, South Worcestershire at Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust said:

"Joined up services offering co-ordinated care to meet individuals' needs have a direct influence on the number of emergency admissions, and readmissions. Our Alliance means better care for people who are aged over 75, have a long term condition, or are potentially frail. By working jointly, GPs and nursing teams will be offering a seamless service that focuses on the patient, overcoming organisational boundaries."

Dr Gemma Moore, Lead GP for SW Healthcare said:

"The Alliance means real joint leadership building on the strong ties GPs and community nurses have always shared. We want the best, smoothest care for our patients and our new joint body will ensure strong and lasting links between community services and GPs are forged, ensuring patients are seen by the appropriate person, rather than being referred in and out of services."

For example:

Patients who felt unwell or had an exacerbation of their illness used to wait to see a GP or call 999. Patients will now have a named Advanced Nurse Practitioner who will be their first point access, and will provide follow up care and work with patients to ensure they have the care and support they require in an emergency. The advanced nurse practitioner is part of the GP team and will manage patients that the GP deems suitable.

As a result of the creation of the new service, a new team is currently being formed in each

area. These teams will vary across the localities based on the varying patient demographics. The team as a whole will consist of GPs, advanced nurse practitioners, community nurses, healthcare assistants and administrative staff.

For more information please contact Beverley Priest, SW Healthcare's Director of Operations at beverley.priest@swhealthcare.org.uk or 07966 512507, or Dr Gemma Moore, Lead GP for SW Healthcare at gemma.moore1@nhs.net.