



Fit for my Future staff briefing

It's a while since we last wrote to you with an update on Fit for my Future progress but work has continued at pace in the interim.

Autumn engagement comes to a close

We closed Fit for my Future autumn engagement just before Christmas after a very busy few months. Following the public launch of the programme in early October we travelled the county, talking to the public at 18 drop-in sessions. Clinicians, public health experts and Fit for my Future programme leads attended more than 150 events, workshops and meetings. We kept staff informed through briefings such as these and a series of face to face events, blogs and presentations.

Find out what people said

Since Christmas we've been reviewing the very rich feedback and data provided to us. You can see the full report [here](#). Not surprisingly, and almost unanimously, the public agreed with the need to change and provide health and care services differently, with a much greater focus on joined up services in the community closer to people's homes, with the person at the centre. Their responses to what we've missed and ideas about what else we should consider were extensive and these are included verbatim in the report.

Share your views on the criteria we should use to evaluate the options

At the end of January / early February Evolving Communities (who run Somerset Healthwatch) facilitated a series of public facing and staff focus groups to engage with people on the criteria we should use in early summer to appraise the options to take forward to formal public consultation later in the year. Their feedback helped Evolving Communities to design a [questionnaire](#) (click for a direct link) which we've posted on the Fit for my Future website. Please complete it too - the deadline is Sunday 3 March; now we're getting on to the real detail your views are more important than ever.

Behind the scenes

In the meantime, the workstreams - now focused around community, acute and mental health settings of care - are working hard to develop scenarios which will be worked up into a long list of options for consideration by the Programme Board and, subsequently, reviewed through the option appraisal process

in early summer (late May / June / July). Again we'll ensure staff are involved in that process in the same way that we've engaged with staff on the appraisal criteria. The ambition of Fit for my Future is very closely aligned with, and reflects, the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), launched in early January, which sets out the key ambitions for the service over the next 10 years.

Update on the TSFT and Somerset Partnership merger

The two trusts, which run Musgrove Park Acute Hospital, mental health and community health services, including community hospitals, will come together in a single merged Trust in October this year. The merger is entirely in keeping with Fit for My Future and supports its ambition to transform the way we deliver services to improve the health of Somerset's population and better meet our population's mental and physical health needs now and in the future. In the coming weeks you will see social media posts to raise awareness of the merger and the benefits it will bring.

Changes in people

CCG Accountable Officer: Many of you will know that the CCG's interim Accountable Officer, Nick Robinson, retired at the end of January. The CCG and Somerset County Council are working together to appoint a new substantive Accountable Officer who will lead work across health and care services to develop new strategic commissioning arrangements. This new position will be pivotal as we move towards the creation of an Integrated Care Organisation. In the meantime, Chief Operating Officer, David Freeman, is the interim Accountable Officer until the new substantive Accountable Officer is appointed.

Programme Director, Fit for my Future: Dr Rosie Benneyworth, who has led the programme from the outset, also leaves at the end of February to take up a position with the Care Quality Commission as their new Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care.

Dr Benneyworth said: "I'm very excited about my new role with the CQC and the opportunity to influence primary, integrated health and care at a national level. But I leave my role as Fit for my Future programme lead with some real regret and great memories of the many people I've met and worked with. We've come a long way since we started on this journey in early 2018 and I have every confidence that Somerset will be at the vanguard of truly integrated health and care services. Our communities deserve it, and so do our staff who work hard every day to provide the very best service they can."

Maria Heard, currently Head of Assurance and Delivery with NHS England, will take over the role of Programme Director on 1 March. Maria originally trained as a nurse and has led the NHS England oversight and assurance of the Fit for my Future programme from the beginning. The CCG has also appointed a clinical lead, Dr Alex Murray, to work alongside Maria, recognising the increased meeting and stakeholder commitments involved in the programme as it moves forward. Alex has been the Fit for my Future clinical mental health lead from the outset and is very familiar with the overall programme.

Dr Rosie Benneyworth

Trudi Grant