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Dear partners,

Update on 'Improving hospital-based stroke services in West Sussex'

We are writing to update you on our work to improve hospital-based stroke services in West Sussex.

For the past two years we have been working to carry out a comprehensive review of stroke services in the coastal area of West Sussex, which covers the population of Adur, Arun, Chichester, Worthing and south of Horsham.

Clinicians from stroke services, general practice and the ambulance service have led the review and it has helped to identify improvements we need to make to provide the best care to the people who live, work and visit our communities. The improvements are needed to also ensure we are meeting national guidelines for the treatment of stroke.

As a result, we have developed proposals, based on evidence and feedback from the skilled people who work in our hospitals, community services and GP practices, which set out how we can best deliver this level of high quality care now and for the future. In developing the proposals, we also spoke directly to people who use our services, their carers and families, Healthwatch West Sussex, the local voluntary and community sector, and members of our communities who experience health inequalities. Their feedback and what people have told us so far has helped shape our proposals and give us the best opportunity to meet the challenges we face to provide the best quality care for all our patients who experience a stroke, now and for years to come.

Our proposal is for an acute stroke centre to be developed at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester, led by University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSussex). This would mean Worthing Hospital would no longer be a stroke receiving unit, which would result in an increase in number of stroke admissions to St Richard's Hospital in Chichester and the Comprehensive Stroke Centre at Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. Working together, the two stroke centres would ensure everyone in West Sussex is within

a 60-minute ambulance journey to a stroke centre staffed by the right specialists, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our analysis of ambulance journey times shows that most ambulance journeys are under 45 minutes.

This proposal was presented to the NHS Sussex Board on 04 January 2023 and it was unanimously supported to take this proposal to formal public consultation. A week later, we also presented these proposals to the West Sussex Health and Social Care Committee (HASC) on 11 January and the committee fully supported our plans to take the proposals to public consultation.

Following these essential steps, today we are launching our formal consultation on plans to further improve hospital-based stroke services in West Sussex.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks until Friday 21 April 2023.

We will be widely communicating about the consultation, sharing our proposals, and the ways that people can have their say through our communication channels, those of University Hospital Sussex, and through our community partners and networks.

Over the next 12 weeks we will be attending community events and forums, as well as hosting our own events both in person and virtually in order to reach and hear from our communities. We are keen to understand the views of as many people as possible so that we can shape the best possible services for our population.

More information about our proposals and how people can have their say is available on our Integrated Care System website: [Improving stroke services in West Sussex - Sussex Health and Care \(ics.nhs.uk\)](https://www.ics.nhs.uk/improving-stroke-services-in-west-sussex). Your support to share this information would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and we will continue to keep you updated over the coming weeks and months as the consultation and programme progresses.

Yours sincerely



Adam Doyle

Chief Executive Officer, NHS Sussex, and leader of Sussex Health and Care ICS