

Join our
reference
groups

Help shape proposals for future local health services



We need your help as we develop proposals for the following local services:

- **Urgent and emergency care services** – Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we are reviewing urgent and emergency care services; this includes emergency departments (EDs) and the local response to the national requirement to create a network of urgent treatment centres (UTCs). This is to help people get the right care in the right place for their needs..
- **Five areas of care that have different policies in different parts of the county** – These include: assisted conception (e.g. IVF), hearing aids for non-complex hearing loss (e.g. mild to moderate hearing loss), male and female sterilisation, breast augmentation and reconstruction and removal of excess skin following significant weight loss.* We need to create a single policy for each area of care across the area and this is known as the **Difficult Decisions project**.

We want service users, staff and seldom-heard groups from across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to join our reference groups and be a part of shaping future services. This is the next stage in our journey, which builds on the feedback we received through surveys and events held in 2019 and autumn 2021.

As far as reasonably possible, the groups will have representation from across the local population.

Can I help?

We are looking for people who have experience in using or working in these services, or supporting people who use them, but we also want to hear from people who may not have used these services. You may have networks into local communities, and be able to represent their views. You should live or work within the Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent area.

You must be able to:

- ✓ Use your experience and knowledge of local services and communities to inform the discussions
- ✓ Give an objective view as we discuss a range of proposals across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
- ✓ Respect other people's views
- ✓ Actively join in discussions to generate ideas.

What will I need to do?

- Attend two or three workshops to help inform our future proposals (estimated six hours)
- Read our information packs that will be sent in advance of the meetings (estimated three hours)
- Complete different templates and tasks as part of the meetings (training will be provided).

Will I get paid?

To thank you for your time, we will pay a set amount for attending the workshops and for reading the information packs to prepare for the meetings. Payment will only be made at the end of the process, and is dependent on certain conditions. We will provide more details if you are selected to join the panel.

How will you decide who is involved?

We want to involve as many people as we can, but we also need to make sure the groups can work effectively. Our aim is to have groups that are as representative and balanced as possible, so we will follow a selection process. For example, if too many people from one area or specialism apply, we may have to manage numbers so that all voices can be heard in a balanced and fair discussion.

Is this the consultation?

No, this is not a consultation. We are in the early stages of developing proposals for future services, and this work is likely to take several months. If we need to make substantial changes, there will be further opportunities to get involved.

Can I join more than one group?

Yes. If you have an interest or experience in several of these services, please register your interest in all the relevant reference groups.

How do I sign up?

If you are interested, please register your interest by completing an online form that can be found [here](#) or phone **0333 150 2155**.

If you think you might need support to take part, such as translation services, or you do not have access to a computer, please contact us to discuss.

Further information



Urgent and emergency care

Across England, local health areas are mandated to set up a network of urgent treatment centres, and this is the main focus of our urgent and emergency services programme.

These centres will replace the services currently provided by walk-in centres and minor injuries units. Walk-in centres and minor injuries units will then cease to exist. UTCs aim to provide a consistent offer of services that will reduce confusion for people who need treatment quickly, usually within 24 hours, but do not need an emergency department.

The urgent and emergency care meetings will take place on **25 January** and **10 February 2022**.



Difficult Decisions

***This programme looks at five areas of care across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent:**

1. Assisted conception – A variety of treatments that can help women to get pregnant if they have been having problems conceiving a baby.
2. Hearing aids for mild to moderate hearing loss.
3. Male and female sterilisation – Permanent forms of contraception, such as a vasectomy or hysterectomy.
4. Breast augmentation and reconstruction – Surgery to enhance the appearance of the breasts, or reconstruction surgery after surgical treatment.
5. Reconstruction and removal of excess skin following significant weight loss – Surgery such as an abdominoplasty, apronectomy (known as a tummy tuck) and body contouring.

The meetings to discuss the difficult decisions programme will take place on **27 January** and **8 February 2022**.



You can read more about our work on our website: www.twbstaffsandstoke.org.uk

For more information, please contact mlcsu.involvement@nhs.net

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