WEST YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF ACUTE TRUSTS

What is WYAAT?

The West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT) is an innovative collaboration which brings together the NHS trusts who deliver acute hospital services across West Yorkshire and Harrogate. It is about local hospitals working in partnership with one another to give patients access to the very best facilities and staff.

Who are the members?

WYAAT is made up of the following trusts.

- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

What do we aim to do?

Our vision is to create a region-wide efficient and sustainable healthcare system that embraces the latest thinking and best practice so we consistently deliver the highest quality of care and the best possible outcomes for our patients. WYAAT is looking at how care could be provided across hospital sites in a single, high quality service provided by a team of expert medical staff so that patients receive the very best care - at their nearest hospital wherever possible and at a centre of excellence if required. This approach has been proven to save lives.

How does it work?

By bringing together the wide range of skills and expertise across West Yorkshire and Harrogate, we have an immense opportunity to work differently, be innovative and make changes that will improve the care we provide.

Our clinical teams and managers are working together to look at:

- ways of sharing the best of what we do
- reducing variation and duplication in the way we work
- identifying new ideas, innovations and technologies
- mapping the patient journey through the health system to identify areas where this can be simplified and improved
- areas of specialist expertise and how this can best be provided for the whole population through a network rather than individual hospitals.

What are the work streams?

The WYAAT has a joint work programme focussed around four clear work streams:

- Specialist services – a review of the way some of the specialist services are delivered and whether these could be provided in a better way.
- Clinical standardisation and networks – looking to standardise the way we work across trusts to reduce variation and duplication.
- Clinical support – reviewing pathology, radiology and pharmacy systems and processes to identify benefits of working together and in the same ways.
- Corporate services – looking at our back office functions to share learning and identify any benefits of bringing together ways of working, teams and services.

How are decisions made?

The board of each of the WYAAT trusts has agreed to form a Committee in Common which is responsible for leading the joint work programme and the development of the work streams. The Chief Executive and Chair from each trust are members of the Committee in Common.

Each work stream has a number of projects underneath supported by a lead Chief Executive from one of the six trusts. The projects will put together a case for change that sets out how things are done now, what good or best practice is, how things need to change and the risks and benefits associated with this change.

The cases for change will be considered by the Committee in Common before being recommended to each of the individual trust boards for approval.

How does it link to the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (WY&H STP)?

The aim of the WY&H STP is to provide an agreed foundation from which the West Yorkshire and Harrogate system can effectively plan and prioritise health and social care transformation required over five years. One element of the WY& H STP is acute or hospital care.

The WY&H STP states: *Hospitals will work more closely together, providing physical and mental healthcare to a consistently high standard by organisations sharing knowledge, skills, expertise and care records, where appropriate.*

The WYAAT is leading on this work.