

Dear CPRG Member,

You will recall that back in July 2014 you were invited to attend one of three public events across the north of West Sussex – one each in Burgess Hill, Crawley and Horsham – to work with us on proposed plans to secure the future of our NHS health and wellbeing services. Nearly 250 people attended and after GPs and expert health managers presented the draft plans, you told us that:

- To help people stay fit and healthy information should be available in various health and community outlets
- Services need to work better together with accessible communication systems to inform patients where and how to access the right service, first time. Others felt that there should be a single point of access such as NHS111, or community / voluntary organisations directing patients to services. Whatever system in place needs to cater for ethnic and vulnerable communities
- Many felt that extended hours at GP practices would not necessarily benefit families, but would benefit working people and commuters. Emphasis was given for longer appointment slots for vulnerable patients
- Feedback on the plans to improve GP practice buildings and facilities, as well as offering a greater range of services, was favoured
- Plans for making better use of our community hospitals were well received. People wanted to see more services, including the community and voluntary sector, provided from the hospitals to alleviate the need to travel backwards and forwards
- Whatever services were available in whatever setting should be accessible to all, by providing an 8am to 8pm, seven day a week service, with good transport links.

The 5 Communities Plan is still in draft format and we are still keen to hear more from you – our patients, partners, and public – to know if the early ideas we have put together will work for you and your family and the wider communities that you live in and near to. To continue the conversation we are holding two further public events

> **23 September 2014, 18.00 – 21.30 at Meridian Hall, East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead, RG19 3LT**

> **25 September 2014, 14.30 – 18.00 at St Wilfred's Centenary Hall, Church Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3NY**

All are encouraged to attend so book you place today, but if you cannot make it, ensure you have your say via the new 5 Communities website:

1. Complete the NEW online survey www.5communitieswestsussex.nhs.uk/get-involved/our-5-communities-survey* and tell us what you think of the draft plan
2. Share your views, experiences and feedback to help us develop the plan further through the public [discussion forum](#) or [via a direct question to us](#) *
3. You can now read the plan, see the presentations given by our lead GPs and managers, read more than 60 public questions and our answers via the dedicated website www.5communitieswestsussex.nhs.uk *

4. If you have a community event scheduled or community group meeting you would like us to attend to share the plan and listen to your views, please get in touch westsussex5communities@nhs.net or telephone 01293 600300 ext 3562

Please share this information with your friends, colleagues and neighbours and contact us if you wish to book your place at one of the next two events by telephoning 01293 600300 ext 3562. Please note that hard copies of the reports culminating from the three events will be available at your next CPRG meeting as well as your joint CPRG event scheduled for the 30th September.

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