



North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group  
Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group  
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group

## **STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING**

### **Consultations stopped due to unprecedented demand on hospital services**

Due to unprecedented demand on inpatient hospital beds and taking into consideration patient, carer and stakeholder feedback the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in County Durham and Darlington have decided to stop the consultations on stroke rehabilitation and ward 6 at Bishop Auckland Hospital (BAH) with immediate effect.

NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield CCG, NHS Darlington CCG and NHS North Durham CCG believe that the clinical proposals presented for both ward 6 and stroke rehabilitation are valid, however the current level of demand for inpatient beds has far exceeded expectations and this needs to be taken into account.

As local leaders responsible for planning and buying healthcare for the local population, the CCGs have taken a number of different factors into consideration when reaching the decision to stop the consultations.

They, along with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust remain committed to the long term future of Bishop Auckland Hospital.

The CCGs have also carried out further analysis of the complexity of patients' health conditions and given the unprecedented pressure faced across the health system during the winter have concluded that the proposed model of care is not deliverable at the moment.

Significant improvements are being made to the community element of the stroke pathway and there is an acknowledgement that additional therapy support is also required for hospital based stroke rehabilitation and ward 6.

This means that there will be dedicated therapy provision made for stroke services on both Bishop Auckland Hospital and University Hospital of North Durham (UHND) sites and additional resources will be made available on ward 6 to enhance the level of therapy for patients.

The consultations recently resumed following a pause just before Christmas due to the General Election.

The local NHS will continue to review services across County Durham and Darlington to ensure high quality services are available to all, whilst ensuring where possible care is delivered close to home.

The CCGs would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the public consultation to date and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Background information about the consultations is available on the CCG websites:

[www.durhamdaleseasingtonsedgfieldccg.nhs.uk](http://www.durhamdaleseasingtonsedgfieldccg.nhs.uk)

[www.darlingtonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.darlingtonccg.nhs.uk)

[www.northdurhamccg.nhs.uk](http://www.northdurhamccg.nhs.uk)

ENDS