

2008/09

Building foundations for a healthy future

Leeds PCT's Strategy, 'For better health for all', describes an ambitious vision to improve the health of the people of Leeds and the healthcare that is provided to them over the next three years. In the first year we will start to build the foundations necessary to make that vision a reality. We will actively seek the views of local people, improve the quality of NHS services and make them more accessible for everyone.



The gap between those with the best and the worst health in the city will start to shrink. Reducing the number of early deaths from cancer and cardiovascular disease is a priority. We will achieve this by improving access to NHS Stop Smoking Services, reducing waiting times and investing in improved treatment for all patients.

"Narrow the gap – make most progress in areas of greatest need"



Over the year we will make it easier for people to see their GP. Patients will increasingly be able to book evening or weekend appointments and by March 2009 over half of GP practices will have extended their opening hours. Additional investment in dental services will also make it easier to see an NHS dentist in Leeds.

"Increase access to GPs including weekend opening hours"



We will continue to provide more care and support for people closer to their homes. This will include working with local GPs to develop services in local communities. People with long term conditions such as diabetes, stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will also benefit from local services specifically tailored to meet their needs and help reduce the number of times they need to be admitted to hospital.

"I have access to a variety of services which are flexible and meet my needs"



If patients do need to see a specialist then GPs will be able to refer them to the hospital of their choice. No patient will wait longer than 18 weeks for any treatment they may need once they have been referred to a specialist by their GP. We will also work closely with local hospitals to minimise the risk of patients contracting an infection such as MRSA.

"I don't have to wait so long to get my first appointment at hospital, and then [get] much quicker treatment"



Patients will receive better care in an emergency. The PCT has invested extra money in the ambulance service to reduce the length of time patients have to wait in an emergency after calling 999. We are also working closely with the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to make sure patients in A&E receive the treatment they need as quickly as possible, and wait no longer than four hours.

"Ambulances come straight away"



Achieving our strategy is dependent on the dedication, skills and qualities of our staff. Over the year we will support, train and develop people who work for the PCT. This will enable people to work to their full potential and ensure the PCT delivers better health services for the people of Leeds.

"Competent staff, incentivised, motivated and valued"

Comments from staff, patients, service users, carers and the public during consultation period, winter 2007.