

## UPPER DALES HEALTH WATCH update April 2017

### Meeting to discuss possible threat to Darlington Memorial Hospital's A&E and Maternity services

Letters have been sent to:-

- a) Rishi Sunak MP who has agreed to visit the Central Dales Practice.
- b) Edmund Lovell, Better Health Programme, who replied that our concerns would be noted.
- c) Cllr. John Blackie.
- d) Leyburn PPG and Reeth Medical Practice inviting them to work with UDHW on this issue.
- e) Richmondshire Today.

The public consultation has been postponed until the autumn. It was therefore agreed it was too early start a poster campaign.

Copies of the blank letter to Rishi Sunak MP are available at both surgeries.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service's views on STP\* plans and the risk to services at Darlington to be sought.

An invitation to visit the Upper Dales to be sent to one of the decision makers / clinicians involved with STP planning with an offer to visit Stockton in return.

The view of The King's Fund on rural health issues to be sought.

### General points

- Most mothers want to have their babies in a consultant led unit.
- James Cook's helipad has landing lights.
- Clinicians want one perinatal unit for the STP area – this would inevitably be at James Cook.
- There is unlikely to be any funding for new capital works as a result of any reconfiguration of NHS services in the STP area.
- £900K+ has been saved across HRW 2016-17 through changes in prescribing.

A discussion on what the community could do in the way of self-help took place. Transport, support for Step up/ Step down accommodation and support for GP practices were mentioned. A charity called the Health Accommodation Trust (HAT), to support the Step up / Step down rooms across the HRWCCG area is being set up.

**It was agreed we need to focus on issues that are critical for our communities, so it may be that the Ambulance Service provision will turn out to be our "red line".**

*\*STP is an NHS planning area or 'footprint' covering the Durham Dales, Easington, Sedgfield, Darlington, Teesside and Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby.*