Transforming Care Together’ (TCT) is the name for a partnership between Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

For several months now our three trusts have been working closely to understand how we can combine to deliver care in more joined-up ways, in line with what people need from the modern NHS.

The key principle at the heart of our partnership is how we create benefits for patients and service users, and how we can improve services and health outcomes for people in the communities we serve.

Through our collaboration so far it has become very clear that the three trusts are like-minded organisations, with complementary values, each dedicated to the very best patient care.

We are pleased to confirm that each of the boards of the three trusts involved in the TCT partnership have approved the full business case for formal integration. This means that the three trusts will now be working together (with our regulator NHS Improvement) to form one organisation.

Work by our staff has identified a range of benefits and improvements which could be delivered by us becoming one organisation. As a result the three boards of directors agreed to integrate as one organisation, with a view to coming together from 1 October 2017.

We are very keen to explore the clinical potential our partnership brings – we have a rare and exciting opportunity for a review of what we do and how we do it, building on the excellent care being provided by all our organisations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT ARE WE DOING?</th>
<th>WHEN?</th>
<th>HOW?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combining our organisations</td>
<td>1 October 2017</td>
<td>A legal acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>This will include all of our current services and future services we may develop.</td>
<td></td>
<td>BCHC will legally acquire BCP and DWMH but this is just the legal process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We will be one organisation with a new name.</td>
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<td>Our approach is much more about bringing together the best of our organisations.</td>
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</table>
At a very early stage of our discussions, clinical staff from all three organisations worked closely together to share knowledge of our existing services and identify opportunities to improve them or develop new services.

This has led to us agreeing five key benefits for our service users, patients and the public.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE TCT PARTNERSHIP?

- **By creating a single provider of mental health and learning disabilities services we will improve access, choice, pathways (journeys through the system) and outcomes for our patients and service users.**
- **We will be able to influence and deliver new models of care, specifically how physical and mental health are considered together, to deliver true person-centred care for our patients and service users.**
- **Strengthen our children’s services across Birmingham and the Black Country to improve outcomes for young people.**
- **By combining our efforts and being more efficient with our resources, enable development of clinical services through using best practice, innovation and research.**
- **We have agreed to focus on three main clinical areas of work as we work towards partnership. These are:**
  - mental health services
  - learning disability services
  - children’s services
  These areas make up a big percentage of our combined services and that is why they are a priority for us.

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
QUESTIONS?

Why did we decide to work together?

We all understand that the health and care system is under pressure, and like many healthcare organisations, BCP was concerned about the future and protecting the services it delivers to patients.

The Trust’s Board and staff considered different options and decided to talk to other NHS organisations in the West Midlands about the potential of working together. BCHC and DWMH developed a joint proposal for partnership working which BCP reviewed and approved.

BCP involved patients, service users, carers and staff in helping to review the proposal to ensure that the decision made was focused around the needs of our patients.

When will this happen?

We are planning to come together as one organisation on 1 October 2017, however the work to jointly develop our services will take much longer than this.

On 1 October our organisations will legally and formally be one with a new name and one Board of Directors, however many of our services will remain the same. Change will be happening in many of our corporate areas first. These are the areas that support clinical services such as finance, human resources and IT.

I am a current service user, what does this mean for me?

In the short term you will see no immediate impact to your current care because the work we need to do to review and develop our clinical services will take time. We have started this work and clinical staff from the three organisations are meeting to discuss what we need to do.

As part of this work we want to talk to patients, service users, carers and families to help us shape our future services. There will be opportunities for you to get involved if you wish to do so.

I am a public member of BCHC and BCP, what does this mean for me?

To enable integration the three trusts will come together under a new name. As Foundation Trusts already BCHC and BCP have both enjoyed the benefits of having public members. DWMH has not been operating as an FT and so therefore many interested and involved people have not been able to be formal members; this will change and those served by and involved with DWMH will be invited to take up membership of the new organisation.

Members of BCHC and BCP (both already Foundation Trusts) will automatically become members of the new trust. Members elect Governors to represent them across geographical constituencies, coming together as the Council of Governors.

I am a member of the public, what does this mean for me?

You may have seen the information in the media about the NHS, particularly in relation to the pressures and money. Our work will help us to make the best use of public money so that if you or your family and friends need access to our services that they can get the best quality care. This means care is delivered by the right people in the right place and at the right time.

If you would like to get more involved in the work we are doing there are opportunities for you to do so.
Involvement can mean different things to different people such as: sharing feedback by telephone, email or via our online blog; talking to us at one of our informal drop-in events in public places such as local libraries, hospitals or clinics; being involved in a workshop or focus group; or attending one of our engagement events.

The level of involvement is up to you! If you are unsure about what this may mean please get in touch for a chat.

You can contact us by email to: tct.partnership@nhs.net or telephone: 07469 872190 (we can call you back).

You can also keep up-to-date with news, information and events on our combined website: www.transformingcaretogether.org.

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**COME ALONG TO A DROP-IN SESSION OR AN EVENT**

We have organised a number of awareness stands where you can drop-in and chat to one of our friendly governors or members of staff.

### Birmingham

- Perry Tree Centre (BCHC) – 10 July 2017, 2.00-3.00pm
- Ann Marie Howes Centre (BCHC) – 25 July 2017, 2.00-3.00pm
- Castle Vale Primary Care Centre (BCHC) – 3 August 2017, 10.00am to 2.30pm
- West Midlands Rehabilitation Centre (BCHC) – 9 August 2017, 10.30am to 3.30pm
- Moseley Hall Hospital (BCHC) – 10 August 2017, 10.30am to 3.30pm
- The Greenfields (BCHC) – 11 August 2017, 10.30am-3.30pm

### Dudley

- Henry Lautch Centre, Bushey Fields Hospital (DWMH) – 16 August 2017, 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Ladies Walk Clinic (DWMH) – 22 August 2017, 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Ridge Hill Centre (BCP) – 17 August 2017, 10.00am to 3.30pm

### Sandwell

- Quayside (BCP) – 14 August 2017, 10.30am to 3.30pm
- Edward Street Hospital Cafe (BCPFT) – 15 August 2017, 10.30am to 3.30pm

### Walsall

- Anchor Meadow Health Centre (DWMH) – 17 August 2017, 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Orchard Hills (BCP) – 18 August 2017, 10.00am to 3.30pm
- Forest Arts Centre (DWMH) – 25 August 2017, 10.00am to 2.00pm

### Wolverhampton

- Penn Hospital (BCP) – 16 August 2017, 10.30am to 3.30pm

We are also organising events for our three main clinical areas of development: mental health services; learning disability services; children’s services. These will be held in early August. Please get in touch if you would like to come along.