



Please see our Events page and book for either of the main events by emailing:
bigcaredebate@nhs.net

Message from Dr Shane Gordon, Clinical Chief Officer at the CCG, launching The Big Care Debate:

“The first heart transplant patient in Britain in 1968 only survived 46 days - now 24 transplants are carried out in the same period. In 1958, hip replacements were so unusual that patients were asked to arrange to return them after death - now 1,000 are done nationally every week.

These examples illustrate how very different the world was when our health service was created. Since 1948 operations and procedures that were not even dreamed of have become routine. We all benefit from these advances, but they come at an ever-increasing cost, in a tough economic climate.

Government spending on health has increased, but it is not keeping pace with the amount of care and treatment being provided. We must ensure that quality is maintained in future. For health services to keep meeting our needs in the 21st century, we have to make some radical adjustments. Across the country the NHS is involved in “A Call to Action” <http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/07/11/call-to-action> a discussion with the public, staff and politicians about the future shape of health services.

Taking up NHS England’s “Call to Action” North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched its own Big Care Debate. We want to get views and ideas from individuals, groups and organisations about how to meet the challenge of providing high quality services within constrained resources.

The CCG wants to involve everyone in north east Essex in the debate. It’s not just about the budget, but about using the money effectively to provide care that is affordable, safe and suitable for our needs.

“How can your local NHS support you and yours to keep in the best of health?” So please tell us **how you are doing in keeping well at the moment; how would you like to keep well; what services would best support you and what is most important to you about how you are able to keep well and stay living independently?**



At the CCG, we are responsible for planning and buying health services for the population of north east Essex. Working with Essex County Council, who are responsible for social care and public health, we are looking at:

- Linking health and social services together better to provide people with the complete care package they need, close to home.
- Enabling people to make more decisions about their care
- Encouraging people to take control of their own health and wellbeing

All these aims can help reduce avoidable admissions to hospital, which can be distressing, expensive and disruptive for patients and relatives. Hospitals are rightly held to the highest standards, but most of the time acute services are doing an excellent job that is widely appreciated.

The CCG has begun developing ideas about how to provide improved services in the right place at the right time, while cutting waste. [‘Our plans for integrated care for the people of north east Essex’ are a starting point for The Big Health Debate.](#)

We need everyone to join in and help come up with ideas for a health and social care system that is fit for the 21st century. Please take part and have your say.

You can do this through the North East Essex Health Forum www.neessexccg.nhs.uk – click on Have Your Say, or by emailing bigcaredebate@nhs.net.

We will also be holding two Big Health Debate events, including on **Tuesday 12 November, 6.30pm at the Colchester United football stadium and on Thursday 14 November, 2pm at The Princes Theatre, Clacton.**

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