

East Midlands Derbyshire Nottinghamshire Health Devolution Event December 2015

All of the Leaders of the 19 local authorities are currently considering a devolution deal document for the East Midlands (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) as part of the final stages of negotiations with Government. The powers are designed to improve the lives of local people by making sure that decisions that affect them are taken locally by locally elected representatives rather than from Westminster.

The wide-ranging powers, which include skills, housing, transport, the economy and superfast broadband across the whole area, would be supplemented by a significant investment fund that would be spent locally for the benefits of local people.

The final details of the deal are expected imminently although any announcement would be subject to final ratification by the 19 authorities and the approval of the necessary legislation. Any final decisions by local members are likely to be taken some time next year with elections for a mayor not taking place until May 2017 at the earliest.



As part of the priority for achieving a value for money Public Sector, there is potential for aspects of health and social care to be replicated to a local governance model. In November Anthony May and David Pearson hosted an event on behalf of the health and social care community to review devolution and its relationship with health and social care, and explore what devolved powers could mean for our area. The presentations from the event can be accessed here:

http://prezi.com/ilvfl1y78yp3/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share

There was wide representation from across the health and social care community taking part in workshop discussions. Key themes from the workshops included:

The potential benefits of devolution in health and social care

- Simplification in decision making, structures and commissioning giving a system that is more flexible and sensitive to change and which can be more readily articulated to citizens.
- A focus on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing which allows for inequalities to be tackled on a local level whilst making the most of public health expertise and resources.
- Supporting our local communities and acting as a key driver to building more resilient communities with locally set priorities.
- Benefits derived from the wider devolution deal to attract, develop and retain a high quality workforce across the health and social care sector, including the development of emerging roles within the sector by working closely with our further and higher education bodies.

- Develop a sense of place with services and functions focused on a wider geography to reduce inequalities and inconsistency across the area.
- Greater engagement of local politicians with their communities and oversight of health and social care.
- Local influence over national policy to leverage change.
- Consistent commissioning arrangements across our area with flexible design around local models.

The potential risks of devolution in health and social care

- The devolution deal is primarily focused on economic development.
- Our distinctive geography poses the risk of areas losing their sense of place and of devolution being city-centric.
- Financial risk from bringing organizations together outside of national systems in a time of limited resource - economies of scale may not be achieved or funding may be diverted to other areas of the public sector.
- Powers not devolved in a meaningful way.
- Local accountability for devolution and how local and national arrangements will be resolved.
- Bringing together health and social care and reconciling the funding and powers which have already been devolved across the area.
- Patient flows out of and in to the area causing fragmentation.
- Democratic mandate may protect the more affluent areas and decisions may be challenging.
- A risk or perceived risk of inequality and inequity in service access and outcomes for citizens.
- Governance impeding transformation.
- Making changes at the required pace may destabilize the health and social care community.

Potential powers / responsibilities that could be devolved to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

- Training and skills for health and social care.
- Social housing.
- Integration of wider public services to work together to tackle the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.
- Specialized commissioning.
- Offender health and prison population reform.
- The ability to develop local priorities, and price and funding mechanisms.
- Powers currently held by national bodies such as NHS England or Public Health England.

Next steps

The devolution deal is still being negotiated, in particular there have been no firm commitments or decisions at this stage for the devolution of health and social care. In order to progress there are issues for further consideration such as:

- What will a local governance model for health and social care look like?
- What powers will the Mayor have over the health and social care community? What are the interdependencies?
- What outcomes do we desire?
- How will we implement our vision?
- How does this sit with the New Models of Care currently being developed across our area?

As part of the development of our approach, local areas should consider wider engagement within their health and social care community to discuss the opportunities and implications of devolution.