

# NHS Proposals

You  
said...

We did:



Protecting high  
quality healthcare  
services for the  
long term

February 2018

## IVF and Fertility

### What changes were we proposing?

The CCG was proposing to change the criteria regarding the funding of one full cycle of IVF/ICSI for patients. The proposed changes were:-

- A. To make fertility treatment available to women aged 30-35 years instead of up to 40.
- B. To make NHS funded fertility treatment available to people with no children, not people with children from other partners.
- C. To no longer offer fertility assessment and treatment for couples where prospective fathers, or female partners in same sex relationships, are older than 52 years of age.

### Why did we propose these changes?

The CCG proposed these changes as part of a wider review to improve how services are

delivered to the local community while at the same time making savings to secure the long term future of healthcare in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

### Who was consulted and involved?

Members of the local public across North Somerset Bristol and South Gloucestershire, GPs and patients involved in IVF treatment were consulted. The nature of online engagement meant that people living outside the local CCG area were able to respond.

### How were they consulted?

Over a six week period during July and August, we ran an online survey on the CCG website which covered the three key questions highlighted above. The survey was promoted on the CCG website and through numerous articles in the local press and media.

### What did you say and how we responded?

We received 629 online responses to this consultation exercise. 85% of the respondents said they understood the reasons for the suggested changes to the criteria.

90% of the responses were against the proposal to make fertility treatment available to women aged 30-35 years instead of up to 40.

69% of the responses were against the proposal to make NHS funded fertility treatment available to people with no children, not people with children from other partners.

60% of the responses were in favour of the proposal to no longer offer fertility assessment and treatment for couples where prospective fathers, or female partners in same sex relationships, are older than 52 years of age.

(see overleaf for details)

You said	Our response
The proposals were discriminatory in terms of age and failed to reflect current societal norms.	The NHS is only able to restrict treatments on the basis of age where there is a clinical reason to do so. The accompanying information to the proposals set out the clinical justification.
The proposals could affect the health and mental well-being of those involved in seeking IVF treatment	We commission comprehensive mental health services in order to support patients in managing their mental health.
Altering the lower age limit is also discriminatory.	The NHS is only able to restrict treatments on the basis of age where there is a clinical reason to do so. The accompanying information to the proposals set out the clinical justification.
There is a lack of clear clinical evidence to support these proposals	The proposal paper included a report from the Office of National Statistics which set out evidence to support these proposals. The data included was both national and local.

### You said:

Overall you said you were against these proposals to change the criteria regarding the funding of IVF treatment in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

### We did:

At its November 2017 meeting, the combined Governing Body of the three CCGs decided to keep the existing criteria as they were and look at IVF treatment as part of a wider review during 2018/19.

Further information and a more detailed report can be found at:

[www.bristolccg.nhs.uk](http://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk)

[www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk](http://www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk)

[www.southgloucestershire.nhs.uk](http://www.southgloucestershire.nhs.uk)