

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 19 JULY 2016

FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE - UPDATE

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to be updated on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire (FOAHSW) programme, including:

- approval of the revised clinical model by the West Midlands Clinical Senate
- the planned approach to consultation and high level consultation plan
- the timetable going forward.

2. As previously discussed with the HOSC, in June 2015 the West Midlands Clinical Senate gave overall support for the proposed clinical model of hospital services in Worcestershire, but requested more detailed work on emergency care pathways for the county, so that a model which had widespread support could be finalised. Following completion of this work, a revised clinical model was submitted to the Clinical Senate for review – and the Senate's approval was announced on 29 June.

3. The proposed clinical model will now be subject to assurance by NHS England, before it is put to public consultation later this year.

4. Representatives from the FOAHSW programme have been invited to the meeting.

Background

5. Now in its final stages, the HOSC has maintained regular overview of the review of acute hospital services in Worcestershire, which was initiated in 2012, prompted by a number of needs, including national evidence that certain services can be provided to a higher standard if they are centralised, a lack of doctors specialising in certain services and the increasing challenge of meeting the needs of an ageing population with more complex and long-term conditions.

6. There have been a number of delays in the process of finalising the review, which have been acknowledged to be frustrating for everyone involved.

Clinical Model

7. HOSC Members will be aware that the main proposed changes to services in the proposed clinical model of care are:

- Separation of emergency and planned care to improve outcomes and patient experience

- Creation of centres of excellence for planned surgery
- Urgent care centre for adults and children at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch
- Accident and Emergency remaining at the Alexandra Hospital for adults only, with robust arrangements for managing a seriously sick child if they arrive unexpectedly or their condition deteriorates and they need an inpatient stay in hospital
- Centralisation of inpatient care for children at Worcestershire Royal Hospital with the majority of children's care remaining local. 80% of children would continue to receive all their care locally
- Centralisation of consultant-led births at Worcester with ant-natal and post-natal care remaining local
- Centralisation of emergency surgery.

8. Part of the proposed model of care involves centralising some services at Worcestershire Royal Hospital and providing more planned care at the Alexandra Hospital, which will lead to more patients and their carers travelling to Worcester and Redditch for some aspects of care. The plans do not affect outpatient appointments or diagnostic tests and 95% of patients will continue to receive their treatment at the same hospital as they do now.

Latest stages of the review

9. At its last update on 27 April 2016, HOSC heard that engagement with clinicians and GPs about the proposed plan for reconfiguration was on-going, creating greater cohesion. All partners within the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme are committed to maintaining two A&E departments in the county. Formal approval of the clinical model by Worcestershire's three clinical commissioning groups had been a significant step and reaffirmed the case for change. Commitment to the model has also been formally received from the Medical Staff Committee of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals which represents all the consultants working in the Trust.

10. Following approval from the Clinical Senate, the revised clinical model will be subject to assurance by NHS England, before it is put to public consultation later this year.

Purpose of the Meeting

11. Members are invited to:

- consider the progress update and timetable towards completion
- comment on the planned approach to consultation and high level consultation plan.

12. In doing so, HOSC members may want to refer to the areas of concern raised on 27 April 2016, including the on-going impact of the delay, the fact that some of the proposed changes were having to be made in any case because of urgent clinical need prompted by staffing shortages, even though consultation had not yet taken place, the need for clear public communications, transport and access to hospitals, growing

financial pressures, as well as some concerns about the proposed model for emergency children's services at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

Hospital Access and Transport

At HOSC's request, hospital access and transport was subject to discussion by the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 18 May 2016, to which HOSC members were invited. The Scrutiny Panel was reassured by the work in hand, although ownership of transport and access provision would be important. It was suggested more could be achieved through maximising use of infrastructure and the accessibility of hospital sites - which had been designed to enable bus access. The Sixways hospital park and ride provision was impressive, and it was acknowledged that it was not the job of the NHS to provide transport or car parking.

The Trust's Asset Management Director highlighted congestion problems at the Hastings Island entrance to Worcestershire Royal Hospital, and asked for Members' interjection to look at widening access – as part of the current Worcester Woods planning application. The experience of bus operators was that access to hospital sites at busy times of the day was impractical

Supporting Information

- Report of the West Midlands Clinical Senate (June 2016)
HOSC members have been provided with a copy, which is also available on the website <http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk/> (under Documents/publications)
- Appendix 1 – Approach to Consultation and weekly plan

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Commercial and Change) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July, 6 November 2012, 24 January, 25 June and 8 October 2013, 22 January, 22 January, 15 July, 8 October and 5 November 2014, 16 September 2015 and 27 April 2016 - agenda and minutes available on the Council's website at [here](#)
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 May – available on the Council's website [here](#)
- The Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire:
www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk
The website includes:

- Reports of the Independent Clinical Review Panel (January 2014), the West Midlands Clinical Senate Report (June 2015) and the West Midlands Clinical Senate Report (June 2016)
- Stakeholder Newsletters and press releases