

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE

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:
 - NHS England Assurance Process
 - The plans for public consultation including the consultation document, and
 - The timetable going forward

2. The Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme is due to submit its Pre Consultation Business Case (PCBC) to NHS England for Assurance on 5 October 2016. Prior to submission the PCBC which is in the final stage of being drafted will need to be approved by the three Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Bodies at their meetings at the end of September/beginning of October. NHS England will convene a panel on 19 October to review the Pre Consultation Business Case (PCBC) and the PCBC will be published on the CCGs' website on this date. This is the final stage in the process before the start of public consultation.

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

Background

4. 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.

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

6. A number of temporary service changes have had to be made by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust on an emergency basis to secure safe services whilst the reconfiguration process has progressed.

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.

NHS England Assurance

8. It is a requirement of the NHS planning process for organisations seeking to reconfigure services to produce a Pre Consultation Business Case which explains the rationale for the change. The PCBC must be approved by NHS England at a formal assurance panel before public consultation on the reconfiguration plans can commence. The Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire PCBC is due to be submitted to NHS England on 5 October and the Assurance Panel is expected to meet on 19 October 2016.

Public Consultation

Public Consultation can commence after NHS England has approved the Pre Consultation Business Case. A consultation document on the proposals has been prepared and the latest version is included at appendix 1. The documents are currently being designed for printing and HOSC members will be sent the designed versions, for comment. There will also be summary and easy read versions of the consultation document.

9. HOSC received and supported the Approach to Consultation and the outline Consultation Plan at its meeting in July 2016. As soon as the date of the start of public consultation is known the dates of public meetings will be finalised and the complete consultation plan and consultation materials will be circulated to HOSC members.

Timelines

10. NHS England have advised that a formal decision by the Assurance Panel will be made two weeks after the panel meets and that it expects organisations to take a further 6-8 weeks to complete their preparations for consultation. The Programme is aiming to start public consultation by the end of November 2016. As the consultation will run over the Christmas period it is planned to extend the length of consultation from 12 to 14 weeks. Consultation should be complete before the start of the local election purdah on 23 March 2017.

11. After consultation the responses will be independently analysed before being submitted to the CCGs for consideration. The CCGs' formal decision on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire is likely to be after the elections in May 2017.

Purpose of the meeting

12. Members are invited to:

- consider the progress update and timetable towards completion
- approve the public consultation document

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Approach to Consultation and outline weekly consultation plan
- Appendix 2 – Summary Consultation document

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, 27 April and 19 July 2016 - agenda and minutes available on the Council's website at [here](#)
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 May 2016 – 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