

FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Summary

Review process so far

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to consider the progress of the review of the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire.

2. Representatives from the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) within Worcestershire and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have been invited to the meeting.

3. To re-cap, during its meeting on 22 January 2014, the NHS England area team for Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire reported to HOSC on the outcome of the Independent Clinical Review Panel, which had been established in September 2013 as the main component of the next phase of work. The role of the Panel was to review the work resulting from the two options for delivering a particular model of services that were proposed as part of the previous Joint Services Review (which ran from January 2012 to March 2013).

4. The preferred clinical model determined by the 2012-13 Joint Services Review was to centralise consultant-led maternity services, overnight children's services and full A&E services on the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site. The two possible options to deliver this model, which were progressed jointly by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and the three CCGs, were:

- Option 1 (delivering care across three sites) to refine and update the proposals
- Option 2 (seeking a new provider for services at the Alexandra Hospital)

5. In determining the way forward, the Independent Clinical Review Panel was guided by the following principles:

- Clinical teams needed to maintain and improve their skills
- Recognition of the difficulty faced by patients and the public accessing services
- Provision of safe and sustainable health services requiring safe and sustainable organisations
- Balance between access to local services and improving the quality of those services
- Support proposed changes where in the best interest of the whole population of Worcestershire.

6. In January 2014 the Independent Review Panel concluded its review and recommended:

- Creation of a networked 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital. Hospital based services across Worcestershire will be networked and led by consultants with an 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital and a 'Major Emergency Centre' at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital.
- Consultant led maternity services should be centralised at Worcestershire Royal Hospital but Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG should consider commissioning a stand-alone midwife-led birth centre in North Worcestershire.
- Paediatric inpatients should be centralised in Worcester but a day-time consultant-led paediatric assessment unit at the Alex would accept referrals from GPs and other professionals.
- The Clinical Commissioning Groups and Worcestershire County Council should review transport links between North Worcestershire and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

7. The Independent Review Panel has informed the HOSC about the overall recommendations and implications for Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Accident and Emergency (A&E), medicine, surgery and specialised services.

8. Throughout the review, the HOSC has had a number of discussions with NHS colleagues, which have included the conclusions from the JSR and how they were being progressed, and also governance processes for the review.

Update

9. The HOSC will be updated on progress since the report from the Independent Clinical Review Panel. The Review Panel's recommendations were accepted by the Boards of the three CCGs and the Acute Hospitals Trust and since then, extensive modelling work has been underway to work through areas such as finance and transport. The three clinical sub groups – women's and children's, emergency care and planned care have completed their modelling work and have produced specifications which are now subject to financial scrutiny to ensure they are affordable to the health community in Worcestershire.

Consultation Plans

10. Public consultation is likely to run for 12 weeks and plans are being overseen by a Patient, Public and Stakeholder Advisory Group. The three clinical commissioning groups in Worcestershire are working with neighbouring CCGs in South Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Solihull and Birmingham to ensure that their patients are included in the planned public consultation.

Joint HOSC

11. HOSC members will be aware that plans are also in hand

Purpose of the Meeting

to establish a Joint HOSC with these neighbouring councils to respond to the consultation.

12. Members are invited to consider progress of the development of acute hospital services. Issues which members may wish to cover include:

- Consultation plans
- How the Acute Trust is ensuring safe services during this period of uncertainty
- Issues raised during recent HOSC discussions, including finance, transport, impact on ambulance services, the potential limits of midwife-led birthing units and the role of Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre

Supporting Information

Presentation handouts will be available at the meeting.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511
Or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Emma James/Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers,
Resources Directorate (Ext 6627);
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

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

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and minutes of 4 July 2012, 6 November 2012, 24 January, 25 June and 8 October 2013, 22 January 2014.

All of which are available on the Council's website at:
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>

Clinical Commissioning Groups Press Releases, June 2014 – Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire programme is on track for public consultation this Autumn

Neonatal care at the Alexandra Hospital
<http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk/news/>

Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme Stakeholder Brief, June 2014 – Future of Acute Hospital Services

<http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk/>