

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 16 SEPTEMBER 2015**

### **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 progress of the emergency care redesign group, the NHS England assurance process and the timetable going forward.
2. Representatives from the FOAHSW programme have been invited to the meeting, as well as from Worcestershire's Clinical Commissioning Groups and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

#### **Background to the review of acute hospital services**

3. For the benefit of new HOSC members, the review of acute hospital services in Worcestershire, initiated in 2012, was 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.
4. The initial (Joint Strategic) review identified two potential options from a long list, which satisfied the criteria of achieving clinical sustainability. In March 2013, a firm proposal was reached that the focus of the changes would be on Accident & Emergency (A&E) and women's and children's services and would involve looking at centralising consultant-led maternity services, overnight children's services and full A&E services on the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site.
5. The three Clinical Commissioning Groups in Worcestershire, Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust, NHS England and the NHS Trust Development Authority have all committed to work together to develop and improve the configuration of hospital services for the population of Worcestershire. As part of this process they asked for an independent external review of the proposed models of care.
6. The Independent Clinical Review Panel reported in January 2014, supporting a modified version of Option 1, and a number of related recommendations, the next stage being to carry out detailed modelling, including looking at clinical sub-groups and the financial implications. The Panel recommended:
  - Creation of a networked 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital
  - Consultant led maternity services be centralised at Worcestershire Royal Hospital but Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG should consider commissioning a stand-alone midwife-led birth centre for 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 CCGs and Worcestershire County Council should review the public transport links between North Worcestershire and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

7. NHS England completed a successful strategic sense check of proposals in May 2014, after which the FOAHSW programme was given permission to progress to a formal NHS England Assurance Panel at the end of July.

8. In announcing its support for the proposed clinical model in August 2014, NHS England then referred the model to the West Midlands Clinical Senate for further sign off to comply with required national assurance processes, before public consultation would be able to commence.

### **West Midlands Clinical Senate**

9. Subsequently, completion of the clinical review was then pushed back to December 2014, with further delay in publication arising from restrictions in the run-up to the May 2015 general elections. In June this year, the West Midlands Clinical Senate published its review of the model put forward by the FOAHSW programme. The Senate supported the majority of the proposals in the clinical model and endorsed the 2014 Independent Clinical Review panel's findings that there should be:

'Creation of a networked 'Emergency Centre' at the Alexandra Hospital. Hospital based emergency 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'

10. However it has not supported the detail of the proposed model for emergency care and the Programme Board is now undertaking more detailed work on emergency care pathways for the county so that a model which has widespread clinical support can be finalised.

### **Latest stages of the review**

11. The Programme Board has established an Emergency Care Redesign Group which is chaired by Dr Kiran Patel from NHS England to undertake the work. The work is being led by Gary Ward in his role as lead for urgent and emergency care and the group is expected to complete its work in September. It is expected that the revised model for modified option one will be approved by the West Midlands Clinical Senate which will enable the Programme Board to seek assurance from NHS England in October/November before proceeding to public consultation in December/January.

12. In the meantime the safety of services is being monitored by the Programme Board's Quality, Safety and Sustainability sub-committee.

## Purpose of the meeting

13. Members are invited to consider an update on progress with the future of acute hospital services for Worcestershire residents, and in doing so, may wish to discuss the following areas:

- The latest stages of the review and timetable going forward
- What efforts are being taken to complete outstanding areas of work, in order to bring the review to conclusion?

14 The Agenda includes a separate discussion on the quality of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust Services, which will include consideration of how risks to service safety and sustainability caused by the on-going delay and uncertainty are being managed, particularly in the key areas of paediatrics, obstetrics and emergency surgery.

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council; 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers: 01905 766627

Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## 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 - agenda and minutes available on the Council's website at: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx)
- The Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire – Report of the Independent Clinical Review Panel (January 2014) and the West Midlands Clinical Senate Report (June 2015) – both available on the FOAHSW website: [www.worcfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcfuturehospitals.co.uk)
- Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme Stakeholder Newsletters: June, August, September and October 2014: [www.worcfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcfuturehospitals.co.uk)