

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **27 APRIL 2016**

## **FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE - UPDATE**

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### **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 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**

3. 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.
4. The most recent update to the HOSC on 16 September 2015 (available [here](#)) summarised the background to the on-going review. It also focused on developments also arising from review of the proposed model by the West Midlands Clinical Senate (the Senate was a group of 20 clinicians from across the country, whose role was to test the model for clinical safety and quality).
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. The Clinical Senate gave overall support for the proposed clinical model, but requested that more detailed work was required on emergency care pathways for the county so that a model which had widespread support could be finalised. This work has now been completed and a revised clinical model of care has been submitted to the West Midlands Clinical Senate for review.

### **Clinical Model**

7. To recap, 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. All partners within the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme are committed to maintaining two A&E departments in the county
- 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.

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

8. In January 2016, the clinical model for the future of Worcestershire's acute hospital services was approved by all three of Worcestershire's Clinical Commissioning Groups, and was also endorsed by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. 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.

9. The revised model now needs to be reviewed by the West Midlands Clinical Senate, which is due to take place by mid May 2016. Subject to endorsement by the Clinical Senate, the next stage would be gain approval from NHS England for public consultation.

### **Purpose of the meeting**

10. 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?
- how is the impact on staffing, services (including maternity services) and increasing financial pressures being monitored?

11. In doing so, HOSC members may want to refer to the number of concerns that were raised during its discussion in September 2015, including the on-going impact of the delay, 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.

12. The Agenda includes a separate discussion on the quality of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust services and the temporary emergency changes to some services, including obstetrics and neonatal, 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

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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 - agenda and minutes available on the Council's website at:  
<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&Year=0>
- 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.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk)
- Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme Stakeholder Newsletters:  
[www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk](http://www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk)
- Links to Press Releases August 2015 – February 2016
  - <http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/news/temporary-relocation-of-emergency-gynaecology-services/>
  - <http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/news/temporary-relocation-of-emergency-gynaecology-services-from-alex/>
  - <http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/news/temporary-emergency-changes-to-services-to-remain-in-place/>