

# Agenda

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday, 27 January 2021, 10.00 am**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Worcestershire County Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to: Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting, conducting remotely by videoconferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via a link on the Council's website to the Council's [You Tube Channel](#)

The Agenda papers and background papers can be accessed electronically on the Council's website. Members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings.

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 844965 or by emailing [democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:  
**'Disclosable pecuniary interests'** and **'other disclosable interests'**

### WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

**NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you**

### WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
  - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

**NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI**

### WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:  
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

### WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

### DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

### DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
  - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 27 January 2021, 10.00 am, Online

### Membership

**Worcestershire County Council** Mr P A Tuthill (Chairman), Ms P Agar, Mr G R Brookes, Mr P Grove, Prof J W Raine, Mr C Rogers, Mr A Stafford and Mr C B Taylor

**District Councils** Mrs F Smith, Wychavon District Council (Vice Chairman)  
Mr M Chalk, Redditch District Council  
Ms C Edginton-White, Wyre Forest District Council  
Dr J Gallagher, Malvern Hills District Council  
Mr M Johnson, Worcester City Council  
Mrs J Till, Bromsgrove District Council

### Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	
3	<b>Public Participation</b> Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by email indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 26 January 2021). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/email address below.	
4	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Previously circulated	
5	<b>Update on Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	1 - 4
6	<b>Health Overview and Scrutiny Round-up</b>	5 - 6
7	<b>Work Programme 2020-21</b>	7 - 10

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Emma James/Jo Weston 01905 844965, email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website [websitehttp://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors\\_and\\_committees](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees)

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 19 January 2021

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## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **27 JANUARY 2021**

## **UPDATE ON HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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### **Summary**

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to have a further update on the restoration stage of health services following the initial COVID-19 response.
2. The HOSC received reports on 18 June, 20 July, 30 September and 16 November 2020 outlining the response of health and social care services to the COVID-19 pandemic and early thoughts about how working practices were envisaged to change as a result of learning from new ways of working. The HOSC was also advised about services which have changed temporarily in response to the pandemic, either because it was not possible to keep the service safe, or because staff had to be redeployed to services considered of higher priority.
3. Representatives have been invited from NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.
4. It is envisaged that this update will contribute to further scrutiny as health services continue to recover, and HOSC members have requested regular updates on any temporary service changes made in response to COVID-19.
5. The update will also build on the HOSC's on-going scrutiny to review performance of acute hospital services in Worcestershire and the impact on, and roles of, commissioners and health and care providers.
6. The information provided for the Committee's most recent update on 16 November 2020 is available here: [agenda and minutes](#)

### **Restoration of temporary service changes**

7. The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) remains the road map for service integration and transformation and the majority of temporary service changes that have been made align with the LTP.
8. Whilst the NHS remains in emergency response mode, it may be necessary to make rapid changes to services as the situation changes. The NHS will retain flexibility across the system to respond to the changing environment.
9. As the NHS works through the temporary service changes it will always prioritise the safety of service users, patients, staff and the public – for some services it is currently not possible to fully restore them and comply with social distancing guidelines.

10. The NHS is continuing to monitor the impact and any benefits of temporary service changes on all the users of our services, keeping quality and equality impact assessments up to date, monitoring health inequalities and digitally excluded users of services. All services are proactively reviewing patients who are waiting to be seen and prioritising those at highest risk.

11. Proposals to make any temporary service changes into permanent changes would be subject to appropriate engagement and consultation to ensure patients and stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved before any decisions are made.

### **Current system pressures and service changes**

12. On 4 January 2021, the UK Chief Medical Officers recommended that the UK COVID-19 alert level should be moved from Level 4 to Level 5 based on the NHS being under immense pressure.

13. Unfortunately, these same pressures are being reflected within the local health system. Over the past few weeks, the number of in-patients within Worcestershire's hospitals who have tested positive for Covid-19 have continued to increase, and community prevalence rates across Worcestershire remain high. Demand for primary care services also remain high at a time when they are delivering the COVID-19 vaccination to patients.

14. As a result of the current situation, system partners have agreed that all health organisations in Worcestershire move to the highest level of COVID-19 alert escalation.

15. This decision means having to take some very difficult decisions in the interests of patient safety, including restricting elective activity taking place at the Alexandra Hospital and Worcestershire Royal Hospital to prioritise more urgent and emergency services, and to improve the flow of patients out of hospital and into the community.

16. As part of this, community services that provide care to people in their own homes are reprioritising their work to focus on essential care to support admission avoidance and supporting timely hospital discharge.

17. Additionally, all face-to-face, non-essential countywide community services out-patient clinics in Worcestershire have been temporarily stood down so that staff can be redeployed into other critical services to support patients.

18. All affected patients are being contacted and, where appropriate, reviewed to determine any additional support required during this time.

19. It is expected that this situation will continue for several weeks, but it will be regularly reviewed, and normal services will resume at the earliest possible opportunity.

## Supporting Information

20. System performance:

- [NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG Performance Report – November 2020](#)
- [Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Board Papers - Integrated Performance Report – 14 January 2021 \(page 29\)](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust Board Papers - Performance Report – 13 January 2021 \(page 117\)](#)

21. COVID-19:

- [Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Board Papers - COVID-19 Longer View Update 31 December 2020 - 14 January 2021 \(page 16\)](#)
- [Data Dashboard - Deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate by area](#)
- [Data Dashboard - Number of COVID-19 vaccinations by region](#)

## Purpose of the Meeting

22. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information discussed and agree:

- whether any further information is required
- whether any further scrutiny work is required at this stage.

## Contact Points

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 March, 18 June, 20 July, 30 September and 16 November 2020 – available on the website: [Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agendas and Minutes](#)
- Agenda and Minutes from COVID-19 Report to Cabinet on 4 June and 25 June 2020 – available on the website: [Cabinet Agendas and minutes](#)

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## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 27 JANUARY 2021**

### **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ROUND-UP**

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#### **Summary**

1. To receive a round-up of information on:
  - County Council activities in relation to health
  - District Council activities in relation to health
  - NHS Board meetings
  - Consultations in Worcestershire
  - Urgent health issues in Worcestershire; and
  - Items for future meetings of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

#### **Background**

2. In order to ensure that Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) are fully informed about issues relating to health scrutiny in Worcestershire, communication will be essential. To assist in this, an item will be placed on the agenda for each meeting of the HOSC to consider consultations, County Council activities, District Council activities, urgent health issues arising in Worcestershire and future agenda items. Regard for the Council's statutory requirements in relation to access to information will be critical.

#### **County Council Activities in Relation to Health**

3. A range of County Council services can impact upon and also be impacted upon by health services. Recognising that the health-related work of the County Council will be of interest to the District Councillors on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, an oral update on such activities, and on other matters the Chairman has been involved in, will be provided at each meeting by the Committee Chairman at each HOSC.

#### **District Council Activities in Relation to Health**

4. The statutory power of health scrutiny, including the power to require an officer of a local NHS body to attend before the Council, rests with the County Council. However, it is recognised that a number of District Councils within Worcestershire are undertaking work in relation to local health issues, under their duty to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area.
5. Recognising that the work of the District Councils will be of value and interest to the wider HOSC, an oral update will be provided on such activities by District Councillors at each meeting of the HOSC.

## **NHS Board Meetings**

6. To help HOSC Members to keep up to date and maintain their knowledge of health issues around the County, it was agreed that a 'Lead Member/s' would be identified for each of the local NHS bodies to attend their Board Meetings and then provide an oral update at each HOSC.

## **Consultations in Worcestershire**

7. The HOSC has a duty to respond to local Health Trusts' consultations on any proposed substantial changes to local health services. An oral update will be provided at each meeting of the HOSC on both developments relating to consultations previously undertaken and forthcoming consultations.

## **Urgent Health Issues in Worcestershire**

8. Worcestershire County Council's constitution makes provision for urgent items to be considered. Standing Order 12.2 specifies that the Chairman of the HOSC "may bring before the meeting and cause to be considered an item of business not specified in the summons or agenda where the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances (which shall be specified in the minutes) that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency".

9. Additionally, Standing Order 9.4.2 allows for the Chairman of the HOSC at any time to call a special meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Standing Order 9.4.3 allows for at least one quarter of the members of the HOSC to requisition a special meeting of the HOSC. Such a requisition must be in writing, be signed by each of the Councillors concerned, identify the business to be considered and be delivered to the Director of Commercial and Change. In accordance with Access to Information Rules, the Council must give five clear days' notice of any meeting.

## **Items for Future Meetings**

10. It is necessary that the HOSC's ability to react to emerging health issues in a timely manner and the public's expectation of this is balanced against Worcestershire County Council's statutory duty to ensure that meetings and issues to be considered are open and transparent and meet legislative requirements. This agenda item must not be used to raise non-urgent issues. Any such issues should be raised with the Scrutiny Team at least two weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting of the HOSC.

## **Contact Points**

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel; 01905 844964 / 844965  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to this report:

- Worcestershire County Council Procedural Standing Orders, May 2017 [which can be accessed here](#)

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **27 JANUARY 2021**

### **WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21**

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#### **Summary**

1. From time to time the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.

#### **Background**

2. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The suggested 2020/21 Work Programme has been developed by taking into account issues still to be completed from 2019/20, the views of HOSC Members and the findings of the budget scrutiny process.
3. Suggested issues have been prioritised using scrutiny feasibility criteria in order to ensure that topics are selected subjectively and the 'added value' of a review is considered right from the beginning.
4. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny of:
  - Local NHS bodies and health services (including public health and children's health)
5. The overall scrutiny work programme was discussed by OSPB on 22 July and agreed by Council on 10 September 2020.

#### **Dates of 2021 Meetings**

- 10 March at 10am
- 7 July at 2pm
- 23 September at 10am
- 3 November at 2pm

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

6. The HOSC is asked to consider the 2020/21 Work Programme and agree whether it would like to make any amendments. The HOSC will need to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise from substantial NHS service changes requiring consultation with HOSC.

#### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21

## Contact Points

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [Agenda and Minutes of Council on 10 September 2020](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of OSPB on 22 July 2020](#)

## 2020/21 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
27 January 2021	Update on Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic	16 November 2020	

**Possible future items**

TBC	Mental Health Services (all ages) including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder resulting from COVID-19		Requested at 18 June 2020 meeting
Ongoing	Learning and new ways of working from COVID-19		Requested at 18 June 2020 meeting
Ongoing	Monitoring temporary service changes made as a result of COVID-19 response – including demand and capacity planning for unmet needs and preparedness for winter pressures in light of COVID-19		Requested at 18 June 2020 meeting
Before April 2021	Health and Wellbeing Strategy (effective April 2021) including how the Strategy tackles health inequalities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)		Requested at 18 June 2020 meeting
TBC	Public Health – the new Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and the areas being given extra focus from the use of reserves and how Public Health was responding in comparison with other councils		Requested at 30 September 2020 meeting
March 2021?	Update on End of Life Care and ReSPECT	30 September 2020	
TBC	Midlands Renal Review		
TBC	Onward Care Team – follow up on progress made		Suggested at 2 March 2020 meeting
TBC	Developments in admission avoidance measures		Suggested at 2 March 2020 meeting

TBC	Recruitment and development of staff in the health sector		
Ongoing	STP - ongoing workstreams (including updates on Neighbourhood Teams and Maternity Systems) / communication strategies / structure and governance (balance between the 2 Counties) / role of community hospitals / capital programme / capacity	November 2018 (member briefing) 29 January 2018	
Standing Items	Substantial NHS Service Changes requiring consultation with HOSC Performance Monitoring (Public Health) and In-Year Budget (Public Health Ring Fenced Grant) Monitoring Budget Scrutiny HOSC Round Up NHS Quality Accounts Quality and Performance of the Acute Hospitals (including capacity and preparations for winter pressures) West Midlands Ambulance Service Annual Update	Jan/March/July/Sept/Nov	