

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**7 FEBRUARY 2017****FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN**  
**WORCESTERSHIRE – UPDATE**

---

**Summary**

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to receive an update on the Public Consultation on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire.
2. Representatives from the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire (FoAHSW) Programme Board will be present at the meeting.

**Background**

3. Public Consultation on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire started on 6 January 2017 and will run for 12 weeks until 30 March 2017. During the consultation at least 15 drop in sessions will be held in hospitals and community buildings across Worcestershire and South Warwickshire to enable members of the public to find out more about the proposals and make their views known.
4. As this paper was prepared, the first three drop in sessions had been held at the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal (WRH) Hospitals and more than 350 people had visited the stand and spoken to staff. More than 20 meetings with existing groups including those for older people, the disabled, carers and those with long-term conditions, young people and lesbian gay bisexual and transgender people had been arranged and more will be arranged throughout the consultation, to ensure those most affected by the changes and those in the recognised disadvantaged groups have the opportunity to have their voices heard.
5. After the first two weeks of consultation 545 people had completed the online questionnaire and 450 had attended one of 15 meetings and drop in sessions.

Summary of the Public Consultation on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire at the end of week two	
Meetings and drop in sessions	15
Numbers of people attending	450
Number of questionnaires returned	545

6. Areas of concern highlighted at the drop ins and on the questionnaires include transport between the hospital sites and from rural areas to the three hospitals. There is particular concern that there is not a frequent bus service between the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch and Worcestershire Royal Hospital or a direct bus service between Kidderminster Hospital and the WRH. There is also anxiety about the loss of services from the Alexandra Hospital and the available capacity of the Worcestershire Royal Hospital to cope with the additional workload.

7. A verbal update on the number of people attending drop in sessions and completing the questionnaire will be given at the meeting.

8. The consultation is due to end on 30 March 2017, which will be one week into the Local Government election purdah period. No public meetings can be held during purdah and no decisions on future services can be undertaken until after the local elections on 5 May 2017. This gives the programme time to analyse the responses to the consultation in depth. A final report on the consultation will be taken to the three Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups' Governing Body meetings at the end of May 2017.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

9. Paragraph 4 refers to consultation plans to ensure those most affected by the changes and those in the recognised disadvantaged groups have the opportunity to have their voices heard.

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

10. Following the update on the Public Consultation on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire, HOSC Members are asked to agree whether any further information of scrutiny work is required at this time.

11. Surrounding area Health Scrutiny Committees have also been invited to attend the meeting, following the HOSC's agreement on 26 September 2016.

## **Supporting Information**

- Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Consultation Document
- Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Summary Consultation Document Questionnaire

Both documents have been circulated separately to the HOSC Committee Members, and are available on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire website: <http://worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk/>

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council; 01905 763763  
Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Claire Austin, Communications and Engagement Lead for the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire Programme, Email: [claire.austin3@nhs.net](mailto:claire.austin3@nhs.net)

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 Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agendas and Minutes of the 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 and 26 September 2016
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 May 2016

All Minutes and Agendas are available on the County Council website [here](#)