

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

UPDATE ON RESTORATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS ARISING FROM NEW WAYS OF WORKING DURING COVID-19

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 20 July and 18 June 2020 outlining the response of health and social care services to COVID-19 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 had 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, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and the County Council (Public Health).
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.

Restoration of temporary service changes

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

Purpose of the Meeting

11. 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

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Update on temporary service changes (presentation)

Contact Points

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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 and 20 July 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](#)