

JOINT SERVICES REVIEW – THE FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF ACUTE SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE – NEXT STEPS

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to consider the Joint Services Review (JSR) and the next steps.

2. Representatives of the JSR project have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. At its meeting on 6 November 2012 (minute 597 refers), the HOSC was advised that there would be a further meeting of the JSR Steering Group on 18 December 2012 and it was hoped that there would be a decision made about options for future service configuration which could be followed by a second phase of public engagement and subsequent public consultation.

4. Following the 18 December meeting of the JSR Steering Group, it was announced that the JSR had looked in detail at the work which had been done since October to develop and test the clinical and financial sustainability of options which would maximise health services on all three hospital sites. However, there remained some areas of detail to be completed before the JSR could move to the next phase of engagement with the detailed options for patients and the public to consider. The JSR now expected to hold a second phase of public engagement in early 2013 with a full, three month, consultation starting in the summer of 2013. It was considered timely for HOSC to receive an update on the JSR in January 2013.

Purpose of the Meeting

5. Members are invited to consider:

- timescales and next steps for JSR activities; and
- timescales and next steps for HOSC activities.

6. If timescales are available, to ensure that the Health OSC is able to respond to the forthcoming formal consultation on short-listed models, Members are to specifically consider:

- whether the HOSC is to formally consider and respond to the second phase of public engagement;
- the timing of an informal session for HOSC Members to consider data and evidence underpinning the models;
- at which HOSC(s) to take evidence from Council Members and Officers and other key stakeholders regarding implications for public and community transport and community and social care services; and

- at which HOSC to agree the response to the formal consultation on the short-listed models.

7. Whilst the following may be more relevant for consideration at the future HOSC where Members agree the Committee's response to the formal consultation, Members may also wish to consider the tests and suggested questions regarding reconfigurations below as they consider the next steps.

8. In May 2010, the then Secretary of State for Health set out 4 key tests for service reconfigurations, requiring them to demonstrate:

- support from GP commissioners;
- strengthened public and patient engagement;
- clarity on the clinical evidence base; and
- consistency with current and prospective patient choice.

9. The Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests a number of questions to ask when scrutinising NHS service redesign or reconfiguration:

- what is the purpose of the proposed redesign or reconfiguration?
- how extensive, inclusive and adequate is the consultation process?
- how will access to services be affected?
- what demographic assumptions have been made in formulating the proposals?
- what provisions are being made for the effects on patient flow of initiatives around choice and commissioning?
- what is the clinical evidence on which the proposals are based?
- how will proposed reconfigurations contribute to joint working?
- how will the proposals help the NHS achieve its health improvement goals and reduce health inequalities?
- what infrastructure will be available to support redesigned or reconfigured services?

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Resources) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and minutes
of 6 November 2012

Joint Services Review Update, 18 December 2012

<http://www.worcestershirehealth.nhs.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/>

Letter from Sir David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive,
Gateway Reference Number 14543, 29 July 2010

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_118085.pdf

10 Questions To Ask If You're Scrutinising NHS Service
Redesign or Reconfiguration, Centre for Public Scrutiny, July
2007

http://www.cfps.org.uk/publications?item=206&filter=health&filterfrom=issue_name&match_all=true&offset=25