

WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2014 -15

Background.

The HOSC is a committee of WCC Overview and Scrutiny Board and has 15 members (9 County councillors and one from each of the District Councils). It is chaired by a County Councillor, currently Andy Roberts (Conservative). The current political make up is 8 Conservatives, 3 Labour, 1 Liberal democrat, 1 Liberal, 1 Green and 1 independent. The committee has been non- political. HOSC meets most months.

HOSC Remit

- To review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County's area.
- To review and scrutinise the impact of the Council's services and of key partnerships on the health of residents in the County.
- To respond to consultations from the NHS on any proposal for a substantial development of health services in the area, or for a substantial variation in the provision of such a service.

The NHS is obliged to present any proposed changes in services, which are significant, to HOSC. The committee acts a 'critical friend'. It is insistent that NHS bodies carry out effective public consultation about any proposed changes. Unfortunately this is not always done to the HOSC's satisfaction. If the HOSC is really unhappy about a major service reconfiguration and feels that it is not in the interests of residents, it has had the 'nuclear option' of referring the changes to the Secretary of State for Health for further consideration by (it is not clear whether this option has survived the NHS changes in 2012)

HOSC examines aspects of health care delivery in Worcestershire with the relevant senior NHS officers in full committee. Whilst it has the option of setting up task groups, this is rarely done and there have been none in this municipal year. HOSC members attend, as observers, the Board meetings of local NHS organisations and report back to HOSC members.

2014 -15 meetings

There have been 8 meetings of HOSC in the current municipal year. The following topics have been agenda items:

- June: Community service development programme (*Worcester Health & Care Trust – WHCT*)
- July: Winter pressures (*WHCT, Worcester Acute Hospitals Trust – WAHT; Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups – CCGs*)
- Future of acute hospitals in Worcestershire (*WHAT; CCGs*)
- Pilot project introducing a system of clinical navigation the Alexandra Hospital (*Redditch & Bromsgrove CCG*)
- Sept: Community stroke rehabilitation services in North Worcestershire (*CCGs*)
- Wyre Forest integrated intermediate care programme (*CCGs*)
- Oct: Community service development programme – update (*WCHT*)
- Personal health budgets (*CCGs*)
- Nov: Mental health liason (*WHCT; CCGs*)

Acute hospital services (*CCGs, WAHT; University Hospital Birmingham, Birmingham City Council Health and Social Care scrutiny Committee*)

Dec: Mental health services (*WHCT*)

Jan: Tenbury minor injuries unit opening hours (*WHCT, South Worcestershire CCG*)

Consumer experiences of the health and social care complaints system (*Healthwatch*)

March: Mental health services – older people (*WCHT*)

Worcestershire acute hospital trust update (*WAHT*)

April: No agenda yet.

The full agendas and the minutes of the meetings can be seen at 'www.worcestershire.gov.uk' .

Cllr Dr Brian Cooper

BDC Representative on HOSC