



# Health Commission

Thursday, 12th January,  
2017  
7.00 pm

Council Chamber  
Town Hall  
Redditch



[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
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# Health Commission

Thursday, 12th January, 2017

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs: Bill Hartnett (Chair) John Fisher  
 Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) Mark Shurmer  
 Debbie Chance Yvonne Smith  
 Juliet Brunner Pat Witherspoon  
 Brandon Clayton

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|--|---|
| <b>1. Welcome from the Chair and Housekeeping</b>                    | To receive brief welcoming remarks from the Chair and an outline of housekeeping rules.   |
| <b>2. Apologies and Introductions</b>                                | To receive any apologies for absence and to introduce all those present.  |
| <b>3. Chair's Announcements</b><br>(Pages 1 - 2)                     | To receive the Chair's announcements covering an explanation of the purpose of the commission.  |
| <b>4. Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</b> | To receive a presentation from representatives of the Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG.<br><br>(Presentation to follow)                          |
| <b>5. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT)</b>            | To receive a presentation from representatives of WHAT.<br><br>(Presentation to follow)   |
| <b>6. Written Submissions (For Information)</b><br>(Pages 3 - 8)     | To note written submissions received from University Hospital Birmingham and Birmingham Children's Hospital.<br><br>(Submissions attached). |

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**7. Approach to Public Consultation**

To note public consultation arrangements and deadlines for the Health Commission's consultation process.

(Survey to follow)

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**Redditch Borough Council**  
**Commission to investigate Residents' views about Proposals**  
**for the Future of the Alexandra Hospital**  
**Terms of Reference**

**Membership:**

The Commission comprises members of the Executive Committee:

It will be chaired by Councillor Bill Hartnett.

**Purpose:**

1. To gather evidence from residents of the Borough about the potential impact of the options for the Joint Service Review of health on the Alexandra Hospital;
2. To prepare a report of the evidence gathered to send to Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG to be considered as part of the public consultation on its proposals and to the Borough Council to inform its response to the public consultation on the Review.

**How the Commission will carry out its work:**

The Commission will invite members of the public to present their views, either in writing or at a number of meetings convened at the Town Hall in Redditch.

The meetings will be handled as follows:

- People will be asked to register to speak prior to the meeting or alternatively they can submit their written comments.
- Each person will be given up to 5 minutes, at the Chair's discretion, to voice their views.
- Notes will be taken and the "hearing" tape recorded in order to ensure full transparency.
- Only questions of clarification to witnesses may be asked by the panel.
- Press will be welcome to the open sessions.
- It is not proposed that elected members should be allowed to give evidence to the commission – this is purely about hearing from members of the public.



**Executive Office of the Chairman & Chief Executive**

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 Chief Executive : 0121 371 4311  
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**Ref:** JMLTR HARTNETT 1708 2016

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17 August 2016

**Via Email:** [bill.hartnett@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:bill.hartnett@redditchbc.gov.uk)

Councillor Bill Hartnett  
 Leader of the Council  
 Town Hall  
 Walter Stranz Square  
 Redditch  
 Worcs B98 8AH

Dear Councillor Hartnett

**Announcement of emergency temporary change to paediatric inpatient services at the Alexandra Hospital from September 2016**

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2016 concerning the ongoing challenges around the future of acute services in Worcestershire and in particular services at the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch. I do share your concern with regard to the latest decision to implement an emergency change to paediatric inpatient services from September. It is very frustrating that after 4 years, there still remains a lack of agreement on the reconfiguration of hospital services within Worcestershire. During this period the financial performance of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) has deteriorated significantly and the majority of the centralisation proposals within the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire (FoAHSW) that have yet to be consulted upon, have been implemented 'temporarily' on safety grounds.

Against this backdrop University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) has seen a significant increase in patients from the Redditch & Bromsgrove area choosing to receive their treatment and care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Our Emergency Department (ED) for example has experienced a 6% overall increase in activity year on year over the last 3 years. This compares to an increase of 8% to 9% in attendances from Worcester residents over the same period. The corresponding figure for Redditch & Bromsgrove CCG (R&BCCG) residents is 9% to 12%.

Likewise whilst overall emergency admissions growth at the QEHB is 10% over the last 3 years the increase in R&BCCG admissions is 17%. Specific areas of emergency growth include General Medicine and Stroke. With regard to Stroke it is worth noting that in 2013 we were informed by Commissioners of a decision to centralise specialist stroke services at WAHT 24 hours before it was implemented. This resulted in an additional 4-5 stroke patients per week extra coming to UHB each with an average length of stay of 2 weeks. There had also been no discussions with health and social commissioners in Worcestershire with regard to an agreed rehabilitation pathway or access to social care support.

Growth in GP outpatient referrals from R&BCCG residents is also above the Trust average. Last October we were informed by R&BCCG that they had written to their GPs asking them to stop sending referrals to WAHT for a 3 month period due to waiting time pressures. Instead GPs were asked to send referrals elsewhere including to Birmingham providers. I understand we have recently received a further request from the CCGs to accept additional GP referrals to support WAHT, however, due to the unplanned growth in referrals already experienced we are unable to agree to this.

The planned centralisation of emergency surgery on the Worcester site will lead to a further increase in both emergency surgical admissions to QEHB and in GP elective referrals for those North Worcestershire patients who choose not to travel to Worcester for their elective surgery. The lack of an emergency surgical presence at the Alexandra Hospital will also result in trauma cases from the Redditch & Bromsgrove area being diverted to QEHB rather than Worcester.

The increasing use of Birmingham health services by Worcestershire residents is clearly evident yet it is disappointing that despite a commitment made at a stakeholder forum in June 2015 (following the Stage 1 West Midlands Clinical Senate report) that the Trust would be involved in the modelling of patient flows this has not occurred. Since then only 1 further stakeholder forum has taken place. This lack of engagement is a great concern to Trust as the operational impact of the planned reconfiguration of services in Worcestershire is likely to have a further material impact on capacity at QEHB. The growth experienced to date has already placed significant pressure on our clinical specialities and has contributed to an increase in waiting times for our local Birmingham population as well as an increase in elective waits for those patients (including Worcestershire residents) who require specialist treatment including cancer surgery. The latter is treatment and care that only UHB can provide.

You may be aware that the impact of FoAHSW has been discussed at the Birmingham Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC). I understand the chair of the Committee has written to their counterpart at Worcester expressing concern about the proposals and their impact on Birmingham. He has also requested that a Joint OCS is established to deal with the formal public consultation on the proposals.



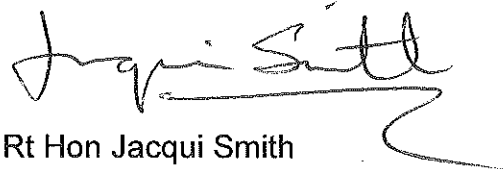
I am still not convinced that any agreement on a new hospital model for Worcestershire will be reached, as the underpinning rationale of the review has been to focus solely on a new model that delivers a financially viable WAHT in essentially its current form. The emerging Sustainable & Transformation Programmes across the West Midlands, the publication of the Keogh report into Emergency Care and the findings of the Dalton Review that advocates the creation of hospital chains all I believe signal the need for a change in approach. In addition, the proximity of Redditch to the QEHB and improved transport links will mean that a significant number of GPs and patients will continue to look to QEHB and Birmingham as their local health system regardless of the commissioned pathway.

The original Joint Service Review in 2012 identified an Option 2. Under this option services run by WAHT at Alexandra Hospital would be run by an alternative provider however this was rejected by the Independent Clinical Review Panel (ICRP) on the grounds it would result in 'significant inequality in the provision of safe and sustainable services to the population of Worcestershire'. This decision was disappointing as I do believe that UHB could have developed an exciting and innovative proposal for the Alexandra Hospital and its local population.

Yours sincerely



Dame Julie Moore  
Chief Executive



Rt Hon Jacqui Smith  
Chair



Birmingham Children's Hospital **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

DM/JW

11 August 2016

Cllr Bill Harnett  
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Redditch Borough Council  
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Walter Stranz Square  
Redditch  
Worcestershire  
B98 8AH

Chief Executive  
Steelhouse Lane  
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B4 6NH

Tel: 0121 333 8405

Dear Cllr Harnett

**Announcement of emergency temporary change to paediatric inpatient services at the Alexandra Hospital from September 2016**

Thank you for your 29 July letter on the above. Ms Marsh is currently on annual leave and therefore I wanted to respond in her absence. In your letter, you asked for our views on the changes to paediatric inpatient services in Redditch and whether it would be appropriate for representatives from Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) to attend a "Health Commission" to share our views.

On the measures announced, it is clearly a matter for the Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT), in conjunction with their commissioners and regulators, to decide whether services need to change temporarily on grounds of safety. You may be aware that BCH has been providing support and advice to the Trust on paediatric services through a formal partnership agreement since the beginning of 2016 following the 'inadequate' rating of these services in the 2015 Care Quality Commission report. In supporting the Trust, we have noted the daily struggle they have had in maintaining safe staffing levels, particularly in paediatric medical rotas, and have noted how this has become more difficult as the year has progressed.

On the "Health Commission", as indicated above we do not think it would be appropriate for BCH to give a commentary or opinion on decisions taken by the relevant parties in Worcestershire. Ms Marsh is meeting with local NHS commissioners (Mr Trickett – Accountable Officer, Ms Emerson, Director of Commissioning and Service Design – NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group), on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to discuss issues associated with the provision of paediatric care in Worcestershire who I feel will be in a better position to provide the local NHS view on the measures taken.




CHAIRMAN  
Dame Christine Braddock DBE DL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Sarah-Jane Marsh



However, as the regional centre for specialist paediatric services, we would of course be willing to contribute in any way we can to the discussion about the future of paediatric services at the Alexandra Hospital. It would be helpful if you could send us more details of the working arrangements of the Commission when you have them.

Yours sincerely



**David Melbourne**  
Deputy Chief Executive

