

HOSC 8th October 2019, Worcester

Presentation by Mr Matthew Hopkins, chief Executive, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT):

Members were advised Mr Hopkins was hopeful that with the co-operation of various partners it will be possible for the trust to be out of 'special measures' in November 2019, and to move to a 'requires improvement' rating.

Mr Hopkins expressed the view that WAHT was organised for success and was moving to be 'good' over all sites. He suggested that a 'Home First' approach for end of life and other situations would be best under many circumstances. This would require much better publicity to be effective. There is no longer a winter period and the system is under stress at all times but 100 new beds are being provided.

The aim is for clinical and financial stability over the next 5 years but with reviews in years 1 and 3 of the period. There are no plans for any closures, however, there may be changes but access to facilities will be considered as part of any planned changes.

Several questions were asked about leaving hospital and it was explained that once the doctor had said a patient could go it would take some time to do the paper work and deliver the necessary drugs. There is a proposal to improve the operating theatres at the Alexandra Hospital.

A question was asked about the likely future increase in population in Worcestershire and the implications for the Trust's finances in the long-term. It was explained that there was always a delay between population growth and receipt of additional money to meet their health needs. WAHT was now asking for Section 106 money to try to alleviate the problem.

Councillor Michael Chalk (11.10.19)