

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20th July 2020

This was an extremely long virtual meeting held on Zoom from County Hall.

The first real business was agenda 5: the access to GP services. It was explained was that, although all surgeries were closed, it was still possible to contact your practice and have either a phone consultation or maybe even an on line conversation. If the doctor felt it necessary you could be referred to another location or your own surgery where a face to face examination would be available.

There are a set of slides available that show what is happening with the surgery staff and how the system is working. Of particular concern was the back log of chronic diseases for which there is a 12 month plan. The question was asked about the weekend at care homes. The answer was that this was being led by retired GPs on a one GP to an individual care home.

An update was given on the temporary service changes that have been put in place. The priorities for these were remaining with the long term plan, flexibility required to any emergency situations, the safety of every one involved, proactively reviewing at risk patients, monitoring the impact of these changes and finally no decisions will be made without full consultation. It was suggested that more use was being made of the private sector to try and reduce the overall impact on the NHS. Once more there were a number of slides used to list and explain the detail.

This was also the case used to illustrate the Public Health Performance on which it was shown that Worcestershire was either at or better than the national level.

It was explained how the ring fenced grant of £28.36M has been spent with details on a couple of slides. When asked about a sum of £208K being put into reserves, making some £5M it was shown that there was a need for these funds to support the quality plan.

All slides can be made available to those members who wish to see them.

Cllr Mike Chalk