

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30th September 2020

This Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting was held by Zoom and lasted two and a half hours.

Item 6 - End of Life Care and ReSPECT.

“End of life care should help you live as well as possible until you die and to die with dignity. The people providing your care should ask about your wishes and preferences, and take these into account as they work with you to plan your care. They should also support your family, carers or other people who are important to you”

This will be achieved by:

- Early identification of the patient
- High quality care
- Accessible, coordinated and digitally palliative care
- A work force with the appropriate skills
- High quality bereavement care
- Embedding the ReSPECT process to enable advanced planning

This report received a mixed reception with some Members describing personal experiences that that did not match this procedure.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Trust on being out of special measures

Item 7 - Working with Covid-19 and the restoration of elective surgeries and other usual procedures.

There is a desire to get back to pre-Covid arrangements but there was an acceptance that there was still a long way to go. Even when some patients have been offered appointments, they have been declined over fears of contracting Covid-19. It was expected that Primary Care will work as normal.

Health Watch has done research and shown that there were various levels of access to GPs. CCG expects more face to face appointments.

Mental Health support is still available 24/7 via the website and all centres are open. Work with children is available and it is expected that mental health problems may rise if the levels of Covid-19 increases.

There will be national guidelines on the use of the 111 system to reduce the impact on emergency services. The system will have 13 path ways starting with making appointments with the GP or A&E or MIU. Worcestershire is the 3rd group to introduce this, after London then Portsmouth. It is important that the public is introduced to this and start to use it. As Councillors we can help by disseminating this information.