

Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) 08/07/22

As is usual, the pre-meeting discussed the various questions and a range of general comments were made as to the general state of the NHS in Worcestershire.

The Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (the Trust) introduced the Integrated Care System that was a combination of the board and providers. It is anticipated that this will break down barriers and give better outcomes. Several explanations were given about current health care, which is expected to improve in 5/6 weeks. One area of concern is the ambulance hand over time particularly at the Royal Worcester Hospital. An acknowledgement was given that there is "always room for improvement."

One other area that was discussed was the arrangements for discharge from hospital. Golden Discharge was still not in place although discharge timing was improving.

The hospitals were back into using a significant amount of personal protective equipment (PPE), with staff being off for 5 days after a positive covid test.

A new bed system is in place which everyone tries to allow a quicker admission to discharge. This is expected to be the "Right Plan."

When questioned on minor Injury Units the response was that they are all different, with opening times and availability detailed on the respective websites. The chair is pushing for improvement all-round by September 2022 and HOSC are expecting quality reports showing where the improvements are.

Covid vaccinations in Hereford and Worcestershire are going well but we still have a high percentage of the young and areas of deprivation where the numbers are low. Mortality rates are below national averages.

The massive survey held between February and May 2022 is helping to develop a 10-year strategy. Action plans are being prepared for many areas particularly alcohol and drug abuse. It is expected that these will come to HOSC as early as September.

The budget of £30.365M is allocated with a reserve of £9.7M most of which is also allocated to projects.