

Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th October 2022

This meeting was taken up with both patient flow and the winter plan and followed a pre-meeting to allocate and coordinate the questions that were to be asked.

There are challenges and areas of concern. The covid spike was expected and accepted by all. There was a shortfall of 45 beds which was smaller than expected.

Worcestershire Royal Hospital has more capacity and questions had been asked about the pharmacy. There is a move to increase the provision of more care at the home of the patient including virtual wards.

The corporate risk is still at 25% covering several areas. A major one being staff shortages and retention. On this issue there is a desire to make the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust a more attractive place to work

The maternity department was one area where the increased improvement in staff health and welfare concerns were having an impact. There is still a need for a consultant midwife, but it is hoped that a new position will be created. Even so there is a need for more midwives to ease the pressure as most staff work extra hours.

The stroke service was discussed; the ageing population was one reason for the increases in strokes as was the large population covered. There is a supply problem with Consultants. A range of options are being considered but no decisions have been made at this time.

This meeting, as usual, went over time, even so I have tried to condense it and report on the salient points.