

Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)
2nd November 2022

In the pre-meeting, discussion was held on the range of functions of the “Integrated Care Board” (ICB). This is the new overriding organisation for the NHS. There was concern that individuals would be able to influence the board to get outcomes for their own units and the relationship aspect between the Board and the cottage hospitals was also raised.

It was explained that the ICB was a very complex system based on integrating the various organisations. There are three areas to accomplish: 1. Assess the existing engagements, 2. Talk to partners including HOSC and 3. Have a draft strategy document ready for January.

Various “who” and “why” questions were asked, the answers were: that testing at the early stages and age and prevention were to be part of the Integrated Care Strategy. The benefits of the integrated system were stated as focus on collaboration, not competition, and removal of competition when procuring services. Finally, public engagement on the Strategy was to be held in early December to then be reflected in the revised Strategy.

County Hospitals need a few more beds, but their minor injury units (MIUs) are being well used. There is an average of 24 days stay with a 7% turn over on bed occupancy but it was hoped this will improve. The range of care packages can be complex and difficult to arrange given that patients and families have a say in the implementation.

After visitors left members commented on their local hospitals, the MIU opening times, phoning 111, and not all were complementary.