

Press Release

5 January 2017

Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire

CONSULTATION TO START ON THE FUTURE OF ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Public consultation on the Future of Acute Hospital Services in Worcestershire will start on Friday, January 6th 2017.

Under the plans being put to public consultation all three main hospitals, the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital will remain open but will work differently in future.

The main difference would be the separation of planned and emergency care and the centralisation of where children stay in hospital and where women have their babies in hospital.

Under the plans most planned operations would take place at the Alexandra and Kidderminster Hospitals which would allow the Worcestershire Royal Hospital to concentrate on caring for the sickest patients and those who need emergency operations.

By separating planned and emergency care the NHS believes it can reduce waiting times and the number of cancelled operations.

The clinical model being put forward in Worcestershire proposes moving:

- Most planned orthopaedic surgery from Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the Alexandra Hospital
- Some planned gynaecology surgery from Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the Alexandra Hospital
- More planned surgery – eg breast surgery from Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the Alexandra Hospital
- More ambulatory care (Medical care provided on an outpatient basis including diagnosis, observation, consultation, treatment, intervention and rehabilitation) from Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the Alexandra Hospital
- More day case and short stay surgery to Kidderminster Hospital
- All hospital births from the Alexandra Hospital to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital
- Inpatient children's services from the Alexandra Hospital to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital. (Out patient and urgent services for children with minor and moderate illnesses will remain at the Alexandra Hospital)
- Emergency surgery from the Alexandra Hospital to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital

Irrespective of the changes 95% of people would continue to receive their care in the same hospital as now and 80% of children who currently receive their treatment at the Alexandra Hospital would continue to do so.

Both Accident and Emergency Departments would remain open 24-hours a day but due to the transfer of inpatient children's beds, the A&E at the Alexandra Hospital would be for adults (over 16 years old) only. Both the Alexandra and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals would have new Urgent

Care Centres which would treat adults and children with minor and moderate illnesses and injuries. Diagnostic tests and outpatient appointments would take place in all three hospitals, as now.

Launching the consultation the Chairs of the three Clinical Commissioning Groups in Worcestershire, Dr Richard Davies, Dr Anthony Kelly and Dr Clare Marley said: “Over the last few years we have seen current clinical services become increasingly unstable due to shortages of highly skilled staff, and some services have had to be altered on an emergency, temporary basis, to ensure the safety of patients.

“We believe this model will give us safe and sustainable hospital services for local residents for many years to come. But we also want to know what local residents think and whether there is anything we have missed or could do differently. We would encourage local people to read the consultation material, attend one of the events we will hold and fill in the questionnaire so that their views can be recorded and considered.”

The formal consultation starts on Friday, January 6th 2017 and all the consultation material is available online at www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk

The consultation will run until midnight on Thursday, March 30th 2017.

A number of public meetings and drop in events will be held during the consultation. Events which have already been organised include:

- Tuesday, January 17th drop in session at the Alexandra Hospital (main hospital corridor) 10am-4pm
- Wednesday, January 18th drop in session at the Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre (main entrance foyer) 10am – 4pm
- Thursday, January 19th, drop in session at Worcestershire Royal Hospital (main entrance foyer) 10am-4pm
- Thursday, January 26th Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG Governing Body, BHI Parkside, Bromsgrove at 9am
- Thursday, January 26th South Worcestershire CCG Governing Body, Pershore Civic Centre at 2pm
- Tuesday, February 7th Wyre Forest CCG Governing Body, Wyre Forest District Council, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster at 9am

Further events will be added and details of all events can be found on the website www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk

***** Ends *****

Notes to Editors

1. The three Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG – chair Dr Richard Davies, NHS South Worcestershire CCG – chair Dr Anthony Kelly and NHS Wyre Forest – chair Dr Clare Marley) are responsible for buying health services for the people of Worcestershire and the proposed reorganisation of services.
2. The consultation will run for 12 weeks from January 6th 2017 to March 30th 2017.
3. The proposals being put forward are a key foundation for the wider Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Plan which has recently been published. The plan aims to ensure we all receive better care, are healthier, and have an NHS which

runs more effectively by 2021. More information on the plan is available at:

www.yourconversationhw.nhs.uk

4. The 95% of all patients and 80% of children who will continue to access their care the same as now refers to changes to substantive changes to services and does not reflect the changes which have been made on a temporary emergency basis.
5. Over the last few years some services have become increasingly unstable due to shortage of highly skilled staff and temporary emergency changes had had to be put in place. These temporary emergency changes have affected hospital births, emergency gynaecology, emergency surgery in children, inpatient children's services and emergency surgery on suspected blocked and perforated bowels.

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More information is available on the website www.worcsfuturehospitals.co.uk