

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

AGENDA ITEM 5

QUESTION 1

MRS JOYCE BRAND, Ludlow resident, will ask the following question:

What is Shropshire Council's stated position in relation to the proposed closure of one of the Accident and Emergency Departments in Shropshire? Does the Council recognise that such a closure will result in an increased number of deaths for patients needing emergency treatment?

Has the Council taken part in discussion with Telford and Wrekin Council on the subject of emergency health provision in the County, if so, does this explain Telford and Wrekin's public statement of support for retaining Accident and Emergency provision at Princess Royal Hospital and Shropshire Council's total silence on the subject.'

MR K CALDER, Portfolio Holder for Health has replied as follows:

So far we have seen no evidence to indicate that the proposed model of Accident and Emergency and urgent care centres will cause an increase in the numbers of deaths from such patients. Indeed the continuing problems of having two under staffed Accident and Emergency departments has been identified as being a risk to patient care.

Shropshire Council has not been silent on this issue. Elected members and officers are actively engaged in the consultation on Future Fit, however as I have made clear, we will assess the evidence before making a final statement on our preferred model of service. For our colleagues and the communities in Telford and Wrekin, the geography of their area means that they have a less complex assessment to make of the Future Fit proposed options.
