

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE– 29th
JANUARY 2010**

CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

**REPORT OF SCRUTINY MANAGER, TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL
AND LEAD OFFICER PERFORMANCE, SCRUTINY AND INNOVATION,
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the developments on the strategy for the 'Future of Health and Healthcare in Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire' and enable Members to come to a view on their expectations of an adequate consultation process and agree to communicate this to NHS organisations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree their expectations of an adequate consultation process on the Developing Health and Healthcare, A Strategy for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.**
- 2.2 **Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that the Chairs write to the Chief Executives of the PCTs, SaTH and Strategic Health Authority to communicate the expectations of the Committee regarding the consultation process.**

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 4.9 - Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting 30 October 2009

3. THE ROLE OF THE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE A STRATEGY FOR SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD AND WREKIN

- 3.1 For several years the NHS in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin have worked to develop an overarching strategy for Health and Health Care in the area. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has a statutory

role in this process part of which is to determine if the proposed changes constitute a substantial variation or development in service and therefore require statutory consultation. When considering whether a proposal is substantial NHS bodies, committees and stakeholders should consider generally the impact of the change upon patients, carers and the public who use or have the potential to use a service. Specifically they should take into account:

- Changes in accessibility of services
- Impact of the proposal on the wider community
- Patients affected

4. INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE AND OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The local NHS has stated its commitment to working in partnership with people in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to develop this strategy. This has included seeking the views of local people and organisations on the principles on which decisions about future health services should be based. Following consultation in 2008 the PCTs and Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospital Trust agreed overarching principles which would be used to evaluate and appraise any recommendations for improving and developing health and health services. The principles and evaluation criteria agreed are attached Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire County PCTs have proposed to undertake several consultations on the changes to acute services at Princess Royal Hospital and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. The letter to the Chairs of the Joint Committee is attached as Appendix 2 and sets out the most recent discussions between the local NHS organisations and the Strategic Health Authority. This may result in some changes to the proposals for hospital services that were set out in a briefing produced by the NHS in November 2009. This briefing set out that the first consultation would take place in the middle of 2010 on concentrating certain services at either RSH or PRH in three years time by 2012/13. This includes:
- Emergency surgery (including major and emergency vascular surgery)
 - Part of accident and emergency services for the most seriously ill and injured
 - Inpatient children's beds
- 4.3 This consultation will also include the principle of whether to have a single hospital site in the longer term especially to bring specialist services for the seriously ill and injured together in the one place.

The PCTs aim to make a final decision by the end of 2010 following this consultation.

- 4.4 The PCTs have proposed to undertake a second consultation during the first half of 2012 on the location and detail of a single site for a hospital for the most seriously ill and injured. This would be either at the Princess Royal Hospital, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or a new site between Telford and Shrewsbury.
- 4.5 While there may be changes to the options for consultation following discussions with the Strategic Health Authority it is in the interests of all stakeholders in this process that there is a consensus on the process through which these important decisions about health services should be made. At the meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29th October 2009 some Members expressed concern that the PCTs intend to make interim changes to the location of services between PRH and RSH before consulting on the site for the single hospital. In particular there was concern that:
- The PCTs have not demonstrated that there was an overriding urgent clinical need to move the services set out in Section 4.2 before consulting on a proposal and location of a single site.
 - Moving the services on an interim basis is likely to predetermine the outcome of the consultation on the final hospital site.
- 4.6 In order to work constructively with the NHS on this issue it would be appropriate for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be clear about its expectations of the consultation process and what Members consider to be an adequate consultation. The PCTs have been invited to attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee to discuss the consultation process. One option the Joint Committee may wish to consider would be to combine the consultations on the interim and long term proposals. This would mean that any interim relocation of services would be in line with the longer term strategic vision for health services in the area.

5. EQUALTY AND DIVERSITY

- 5.1 When considering the PCTs' proposals for consultation Members will look at the range of people engaged in the process.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications resulting directly from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is the statutory consultee for changes to NHS services that are substantial variations or developments.

8. OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 8.1 The decisions about the future of health and healthcare in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin will have an enormous impact on the people in the local authority area. It is the role of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the views of local people are taken into account in this process and that the decisions made are in the interest of the health service in the area.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Local Authorities from this report but Members may wish to consider the cost to the PCT of managing several consultation processes.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Issues affecting health and healthcare will affect all wards in across both local authority areas.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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