

Shropshire Council's Response to the Petition presented to it on the subject of NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans for the County

Having a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is a requirement placed on all NHS organisations by NHS England to reform health care in line with the strategy set out in the "Five Year Forward View". Local Government organisations were identified by NHS England as consultees for these plans however, as the focus of the STP was internal reform of the NHS, Local Government was not given an active role in the process.

Shropshire Council, along with other local authorities, requested that greater consideration be given to the social care aspects of the national and local STP proposals. The statement issued on the 16th November was in relation to NHS England, and subsequently all involved NHS bodies, insistence that the STP documents should not be public. Our belief both then and now is that public involvement is key to resolving these issues and we have continued to lobby for transparency. Fortunately, soon after, the STP document was cleared for release and we could begin working more openly towards a solution.

The Council's statement also comments on the concerns of Cabinet Members that NHS England had restricted the publication of any of the draft proposals for the STP, as they believed that such restrictions had led to inaccurate reporting of the outline proposals. However, the Council respected the draft documents had been received in confidence and were for the NHS to make public.

Shropshire Council has been lobbying the Westminster Government for a fair financial allocation for our communities. This lobbying is ongoing, most recently with the Council Leader, Malcolm Pate and Chief Executive, Clive Wright meeting the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt on the 10th January to press the case for the county's health and social care service to receive fair funding.

In addition, Elected Members and officers have continued to draw attention to the relative under funding of Shropshire to national bodies such as the Local Government Association, Public Health England, NHS England, members of Parliamentary Select Committees and our local Members of Parliament. Cabinet Members meet with local MPs on the 23rd January, when again they will be raising our concerns about fair and equitable funding to commission health and social care services for our communities.

In relation to Accident and Emergency services, Shropshire Council has made clear that it wishes to have clinically safe and effective services available within the county that meet the needs of our dispersed communities. Planning for these services and the primary and community care services should be clinically led and evidence based. Whilst these proposals are developed, Shropshire Council has requested NHS England to assist Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust to recruit and retain the clinical staff it needs for its A&E departments.

Elected members have made it clear that they also wish to see the STP proposals developed further to address concerns that the Council has identified in its feedback to the STP Board. Along with Telford and Wrekin Council, we are saying that there is a lack of confidence in the financial projections and the rationale for future cost reductions, and that significantly more resources should be invested in prevention, community and primary care services.

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Chair of the Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board