

CABINET 27/04/22
Member Questions and Responses

Question from:	David Vasmer	
Subject:	River Safety	
Portfolio Holder:	Dean Carroll	
<p>Given the recent drownings in Shrewsbury, could the Council undertake a review of safety alongside water throughout the County where it has responsibility. In particular could the Council investigate installing fencing where pedestrians and cyclists are close to the water.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>This is an extremely difficult time for the family and friends of individuals who have lost their lives in the River Severn locally, and on behalf of the whole Council I would like to offer our sincere condolences to them. The Council has already begun a review of safety alongside water in Shrewsbury following the recent tragic events in Shrewsbury and it is our intention to increase the scope of this review where appropriate throughout the County. The Council has considered this matter previously in close liaison with partners and other agencies and it recognises this as a very important matter. There are many partners from the public, private and community & voluntary sectors critical to this issue and we will be fully engaging with them. It should be noted that Team Shrewsbury has also already met and considered the issue in recent weeks. Fencing is one measure that can be considered alongside other options including for instance lighting, exit points, education and increasing awareness of risk factors. No single measure is likely to provide a complete solution, in the same way that no single agency is able to address this issue on its own, hence the need for a collaborative response.</p>		

Question from:	Rosemary Dartnall	
Subject:	Delivery Models	
Portfolio Holder:	Ian Nellins	
<p>Can Shropshire Council call on its health partners to ensure that care delivery models are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An acceptance that service centralisation is incompatible with emissions reductions • The need to ensure that healthcare locations are not car-dependent but instead are served by good public transport and safe active travel routes 		

- Recognition that on-site biodiversity enhancement requires green corridors that link existing green areas on all sites

Response:

1. Whilst greater staff and patient travel has the potential to inflate carbon emissions, the issues are complex and the ICS 'Green Plan' commits to more accurate modelling of carbon emissions to help inform changes to service delivery.
2. The centralisation of services also has potential to reduce travel emissions through:
 - a. Centralised facilities make public transport more viable and accessible to larger number of patients and staff. The planned move to electric vehicles will mean carbon emissions can be further reduced.
 - b. Patients can access more than one speciality on the same visit and this may result in less mileage overall. This is better for the patient who would have fewer journeys, for example a patient would not need to travel to a different location for diagnostic activity such as an x-ray when it is next to their GP.
3. The health and social care system has significant workforce challenges which mean that rotas cannot be staffed across a number of different locations safely which in turn is forcing services to be centralised – current examples include - temporary closure of midwifery units, recent temporary centralisation of cardiology inpatient services. Unfortunately in some instances this may mean compromising on carbon efficiencies in order to deliver our statutory duty to provide safe and effective healthcare services;
4. However, ICS partners accept that centralisation is not always the answer and in many cases place based services are being made more local particularly when it comes to diagnostics or maternity services which can be delivered both nearer the home and in some cases at home, where this can be done safely, particularly with the advent of digital technology, remote working and more portable technology (diagnostics etc) which the ICS partnership will be driving forward as part of its place based working (and which the two Shropshire local authorities will be instrumental in designing and helping to deliver);
5. Larger, well used buildings have the potential to reduce energy consumption as a proportion of occupied space, maximising the gains from economies of scale for heating and ventilation. New (centralised) buildings and facilities are several times better in terms

of energy consumption and wastage from those designed over the past few decades.

6. The ICS 'Green Plan' recognises that a broad and diverse environment locally, nationally and internationally is central to tackling the challenge of climate change and the Plan commits system partners to encouraging biodiversity at health and social care properties and to working together develop or update existing strategies. Opportunities to enhance on-site biodiversity using green corridors to link to existing green areas will form part of this wherever possible and one of the benefits of working together as system partners will be the ability to co-ordinate action and capitalise on potential opportunities to join up land owned by different system partners.