

Member Question from Cllr Halliday to Shropshire Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 16th May 2022

Last summer the CCG ran a 'listening exercise' for proposals for a new Health and Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury which potentially involved the closure of some of up to 8 GP practices in South Shrewsbury. The first that residents and councillors heard about these plans was via an article in the Shropshire Star. This significant potential change in service provision understandably caused concern for residents, particularly regarding travel and access issues. As a result of residents' concerns Shrewsbury Town Council invited the CCG to a meeting in January 2022 at which a CCG representative acknowledged that the consultation last year was not good enough, and they also asserted that there were no clear plans for how the new hub would work. They informed the meeting that a future consultation would shape the design of the Health and Wellbeing Hub were it to go ahead. In April 2022 the CCG announced more detailed plans for the Health and Wellbeing Hub including the closure of 6 surgeries and a likely location in Meole Brace. It would appear that the plans for the Health and Wellbeing Hub are well developed, and are being brought for the first time to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 16th May 2022. Has Shropshire Council been approached by the CCG to discuss these proposals prior to this, and if it has, which departments were approached and when were they approached?

Response

Thank you for the question

From a Shropshire Council perspective, in January 2021, the Leader and Chief Executive were asked to give their commitment to work with partners as a stakeholder in this project led by the CCG in recognizing the potential opportunities and challenges this proposed model and NHS investment in community and primary care health and wellbeing services in Shrewsbury, could bring to local communities. This work initially involved supporting requests to identify potential areas of land suitable for the proposed hub.

In September 2021, reference to the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub was included as part of the regular Integrated Care System update to the Health and Wellbeing Board for the first time. At this point the work had begun to move to listening and engagement exercises led by the CCG. At this board the Director of Public Health asked that a full Integrated Impact Assessment be carried out and members of the Board also asked that it come to Health Overview and Scrutiny; today is the first opportunity for this to be brought to Scrutiny due to delays through Omicron and timing/agenda of committees. An Integrated Impact Assessment will consider impact and risks associated with a change in location of services (such as impacts on transport, deprivation, social needs and impact and risks to those with protected characteristics) and what can be done to mitigate any perceived negative impacts. It is Council officers' understanding that no practices will close as a result of this work, rather practices will move to coalesce in a new building. It is also our understanding that work is underway with partners to consider wider services, e.g. diagnostic services, which will bring additional services into the community.

I can confirm that Shropshire Council officers have also been invited to and attend the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub meetings along with other partners as key stakeholders, this has been prior to the meeting today. As stated previously, initially the one public estate team were approached by the CCG and have attended meetings regarding estates issues. Latterly, following the Health and Wellbeing Board both the Public Health and insights and engagement team have also been approached regarding potential Council and wellbeing services that could be provided from a hub model, engagement with partners and to advise on the requested impact assessment.