

Public Questions

HASC – 10 July 2023

Dr Ann Hewings

Regarding the proposal to close the beds at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital permanently and given the strength of feeling of those in the neighbourhood, as demonstrated by the turnout at recent meetings with NHS representatives, how does the Council propose to represent the wishes of those affected by the likely permanent diminution of NHS services in the neighbourhood? What pressure on ShropCom is the Council able to bring to bear?

Response

Local members and the Council are aware of the strength of feeling surrounding the proposals and indeed share many of the concerns. Councillors have used a number of mechanisms to raise these concerns and have been in contact with senior representatives from the Shropshire Community Health Trust (ShropCom) to arrange their attendance at the next Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). There, Members will be able to bring questions directly to ShropCom senior representatives regarding the proposal to close the beds at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital and to receive an update on the Local Care Transformation Programme. This provides an opportunity to press for responses and raise the concerns of residents.

Chris Naylor

At the recent public meeting in Bishops Castle on June 5th about the status of the Community Hospital I asked both ShropCom and the ICB to tell us what services were being delivered at the Community Hospital - to help the audience understand the important role of the hospital for local patients.

However, ShropCom and ICB staff didn't seem briefed to answer my questions at the time.

So could they now answer the following, please?

- What services are being delivered from the Bishops Castle Community Hospital?

Both *at* the BCCH site, and *from* BCCH on an outreach and in-home basis.

- What numbers of patients are helped through these services currently?

I appreciate it may be hard to produce this additional information as follows for HOSC 10.7, but please could you in due course additionally:

- Provide a *total* number of patients benefitting from BCCH services as above over (say) the 12 month period to June 2023.

- provide comparable service details and patient numbers for Ludlow and Bridgnorth community hospitals too.

Response

In addition to the services being delivered directly from the site, the South West Rapid Response Team have operational basis in Church Stretton and Bishop's Castle and Admiral Nursing also use the hospital as a base from which home visits can take place.

We have requested this information from the Information Team but this is going to take longer to collate and analyse than the timescales allow so we will submit this as supplementary information after the meeting.