

HOSC – 29 JANUARY 2024

MEMBER QUESTIONS

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1. Bernie Bentick

Delays in transfer of patients from ambulances to Shropshire's Emergency Departments and admission to hospital beds continue to cause misery, deterioration and deaths.

A Report to SATH Trust Board on 14th December 2023 revealed 140 deaths in the Emergency Department between October and December 2022, double the number during the same time period in 2021 and 3 times the national average. Hospital discharge delays have dropped to an average of 115 per day for the first week of January 2024 compared with 150 to 160 for most of 2023. Accordingly, admission delays should reduce, but the mean time for admission to an inpatient bed in November 2023 in SATH was 21 hours.

SATH was one of 5 Trusts called to a meeting with The Health Secretary Victoria Atkins on 18th December 2023 over 2550 ambulance lost hours in the 3 weeks to 10th December 2023, one of England's worst performances.

How many Emergency Department deaths were there in 2023 and what steps have been taken to deal with this appalling loss of lives, how many deaths were reported to Shropshire's Coroner over the last 3 years and how many and what was the content of any Regulation 28 Notices served on SATH?

What urgent steps have been taken to reduce these delays, when a national study suggested increased mortality in patients waiting more than 5 hours in crowded conditions in the Emergency Department for a bed and what was the outcome of the meeting with the Health Secretary?

2. Heather Kidd

SATH has received £21 million to help with 'winter pressures' and industrial action has mostly affected the number of elective procedures and routine clinic appointments and investigations.

How then has the anticipated deficit grown so quickly from £57 million to £130,000 million by the end of the current financial year, representing 14% of its budget, and what measures will be taken to deal with this?

3. Roger Evans

How has Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICS implemented the NHS Emeritus scheme, announced by Amanda Pritchard, NHSE Chief Executive in June 2023, and which has brought doctors back into clinical practice?