

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 January 2025

Members' Questions

Councillor Heather Kidd

Shropshire's Emergency Services are in crisis and on 3rd January 2025, SaTH declared a Critical Incident.

Will the Chair please ask SaTH to report for each month of October, November and December 2024 and additionally for every month in future until Government targets for Urgent Care are met:

1. numbers of patients seen in the A&E Departments in each category of acuity and the number admitted
2. numbers of patients with 1 hour plus delayed handover from ambulances and the total number of hours of delayed handover
3. waiting times from arrival at A&E Departments to ward admission
4. the numbers of patients in the main waiting area at the start of each main staff shift each day, morning and evening
5. the number of deaths in the Emergency Departments and separately the number of deaths in those admitted as emergencies in the age categories under 18, 18 to 49, 50 to 64, 65 to 74 and 75+ years of age
6. the numbers of patients being cared for in corridors and separately the number in other Temporary Escalation Spaces at the start of each main shift of the day
7. the number and type of emergency operations delayed by 12 hours or more

Councillor Bernie Bentick

Nationally, there was a four-fold increase in respiratory infections admissions in November and the numbers are still rising.

On Monday 9th December 2024, Health Minister Wes Streeting ordered the NHS to focus on Urgent Care, saying "This winter I want to see patient safety prioritised as we brace ourselves for the coming months. I'm asking trusts to focus on ambulance delays, handovers and the longest A&E waits."

On 3rd January 2025, SaTH declared a Critical Incident and restrictions were placed on visiting.

On the 3rd and 4th January 2025 respectively, I counted 9 and 8 ambulances outside the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital A&E Department.

Will the Chairman please ask SaTH to advise:

1. What Public Health measures it has taken to separate those with infectious respiratory illness and infectious gastro-intestinal illness from other patients?
2. Has it implemented FFP3 grade facemasks for all health workers, patients and visitors who visit clinical areas, particularly those locations with respiratory illness, and use 2R grade facemasks for others who cannot tolerate FFP3 Facemasks, including those with respiratory illness themselves, in accordance with National Policies?

3. Has or will it reduce or stop routine, elective operations in the two Shropshire acute hospitals until all Urgent Care targets are met and re-allocate staff from surgical and ward teams to care for Urgent Care patients, with supplementary training, where needed?
4. What is the current and 2024 monthly average number of Clostridium Difficile (C. Diff) affected patients in each hospital and what is being done to reduce this?