



## Community Services Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Councillor Mrs F M Oborski (District Representative on the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Date: Wednesday, 8th April 2009

Open

## Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update

### 1. Summary

1.1 This report details the recent activities of Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HSOC).

### 2. Key Issues

2.1 We have had an extremely busy few months on HOSC. We have received regular reports from the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, the PCT, Mental Health Trust and the Ambulance Service. Major items for discussion have been:

2.2 Final reports on the closure of Sheffield House, Malvern and the arrangements for replacement services.

2.3 Development of the new Malvern Community Hospital.

2.4 Wyre Forest Birthing Unit; pressure from HOSC led to the admission that the closure of this service has to now be regarded as permanent for at least the foreseeable future.

2.5 The "winter crisis".

2.6 Development of the "GP led Health Centre" in Worcester. Despite what has been written in the press this is NOT a Polyclinic; though it is true to say that it has been forced on the County by central government and is not universally welcomed.

2.7 Development of the new Local Involvement Networks (LiNKs).

2.8 Health Improvement Briefings.

2.9 Concessionary Car Parking at the Worcestershire Acute Trust sites.

- 2.10 Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust Foundation Trust application: although HOSC supports the bid there is considerable concern about the decision that the new Foundation Trust Board will meet in secret and therefore HOSC members will no longer be entitled to attend as observers.
- 2.11 Worcestershire Mental Health trust Foundation Trust Application: we are delighted that the intention is that this Foundation Trust will hold its Board Meetings in Public.
- 2.12 Although we supported the closure of the Bransford Centre by West Midlands Ambulance Trust we were concerned that the trust somewhat mismanaged the closure by failing to realise that once a closure date was announced, those staff who did not feel able to travel to the new base would seek alternative employment straight away rather than waiting for Bransford's closure. This did happen and the Trust was forced to move the centre before the new computer system was installed so that initially a substandard routing system was in use. Although WMAS is now meeting its targets the figures actually mask the fact that while attendance targets are easily met in the urban areas, there are in fact still considerable delays in response times across more rural parts of the region.
- 2.13 We have received details of the Practice Based Commissioning developments.
- 2.14 We have received a briefing on the operation by TCN of the "out of hours" GP service.
- 2.15 We have flagged up concerns about changes in Pain Management Clinics and are to have a detailed report on this topic.
- 2.16 We have received and considered the PCT's Draft 5 year Health Strategy.
- 2.17 We have received Health Authority Team Briefs and the Ambulance Service Newsletters.
- 2.18 We have received a briefing on NHS Quality Accounts which are to be introduced from April 2009.
- 2.19 We have recently submitted comments to the Annual Health Check on all sections of local NHS services.

### **3. Wards affected**

- 3.1 District Wide

**4. Options for the Committee**

- 4.1 To note the contents of the briefing paper.
- 4.2 To consider when a further update is required.

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