

Resolution on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group, Shrewsbury Town Council

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICS has proposed that a new health and wellbeing hub is considered for South Shrewsbury. The new facility, which could open in summer 2025, will involve 6 existing medical practices moving into a new site, with their current locations closing to the public. It is proposed that the following medical practices will move into the new hub: The Beeches Medical Practice ▪ Belvidere Medical Practice ▪ Claremont Bank Surgery ▪ Marden Medical Practice ▪ Marysville Medical Practice ▪ South Hermitage Surgery. All the GP surgeries due to move are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by the CQC

The ICS has announced that the preferred location being next to Shrewsbury Town Football Club, Otley Road.

Following a meeting of Shrewsbury Town Council on 24th January 2022 it was suggested that a working group was established to engage with the ICS (formerly the CCG) further on their plans for a Health & Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury. The working group was established and has met 3 times, and attempted to engage with the ISC on two occasions, however both meetings have been cancelled at short notice by the ICS.

The Shrewsbury Town Council Health and Wellbeing Hub working group has a number of concerns about the proposed health and wellbeing hub including:

- The consultation process: this represents a major change to health services and it is unclear whether or not the public will be adequately consulted about these changes (including being offered a choice of options, including 'no change'). It is also unclear whether the ISC has actively considered other options other than those suggested to them by the public
- No clear evidence has been provided for the claims of benefits that the ICS is suggesting (e.g. improved recruitment, reduced health inequalities)
- Travel to and from the proposed hub: there are no direct bus routes to the hub for large sections of the population for whom the hub is proposed to serve. There appear to be no plans for the ICS to improve transport provision to the hub. The 40,000 patients who will attend the proposed hub will promote a large increase in car journeys in South Shrewsbury, and will increase in traffic on Otley Road. Otley Road is not a good example for active travel, with cycling and walking routes being unattractive. Problems in traveling to the hub may deter people who have been used to being a few minutes' walk away from their current surgeries from attending
- Carbon emissions are likely to increase as a result of the increase in car journeys, and also in the building of the new hub, together with the inevitable demolition / renovation of the existing premise. This is at odds with Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Councils' declaration of a climate emergency
- Health inequalities: the proportion of the population who will have difficulties in attending the new hub (because of reliance on public transport) are the group who are most likely to experience health inequalities The hub may have a detrimental effect on health inequalities
- The ISC is suggesting that they will save £3.3 million with the creation of the hub but do not appear to be considering reinvesting this back into staffing at the hub, or on transportation to the hub
- Will continuity and quality of care being maintained

Shrewsbury Town Council Resolves to:

- 1) call an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss concerns with the public about the Health Hub proposal and invite the ICS Chief Executive Simon Whitehouse and other ISC staff; also from Shropshire Council Leader Cllr Lezley Picton, Chief Executive Andy Begley, Portfolio Holder Simon Jones and Director of Public Health, Rachel Robinson;*
- 2) invite to a Town Council Extraordinary meeting the following to give their view on the proposal for a Health Hub in Shrewsbury and the consultation they propose or have been involved in:*
 - a. Healthwatch,*
 - b. GP surgery staff,*
 - c. GP based patient participation groups;*
- 3) consider financing legal advice to ascertain whether the consultation process fulfils the requirements when such a significant change to local health services as is proposed;*
- 4) write to the GP surgeries affected asking them to*
 - a. outline their plans to engage all of their patients, and*
 - b. explain how they are proposing to feed comments into the consultation,*
 - c. encourage patients, including GP-based participation groups, to attend the Extraordinary meeting, and*
 - d. send a representative to the meeting.*