

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS HUB WORKING GROUP
VIA TEAMS**

6 JULY 2022

PRESENT

Councillors Bernie Bentick, Rosemary Dartnall, Kate Halliday (Chair), Chris Lemon and Pam Moseley

IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk)

05/22 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Twin hatted Councillors declared an interest in matters affecting Shropshire Council and the Town Council.

06/22 MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were noted and agreed.

07/22 MATTERS ARISING

Name change

It was noted that with effect from 1 July 2022 Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) took over statutory commissioning responsibilities in England, and CCGs were closed down.

Terms of Reference

Councillor Bentick requested that an additional point be added to the terms of reference of the group to ensure that transportation concerns of those who cannot travel to a new hub be made the responsibility of the ICS. There was a discussion regarding the wording and it was agreed that the terms of reference should now read as follows:

- To request that Integrated Care Systems (ICS) who are the proposal for a Health and Wellbeing Hub for Shrewsbury explain their rationale and reasoning to the public.
- To feedback to ICS that the consultation with the public should take place via a number of mechanisms to allow as many people to participate as possible. This included the opportunity for face-to-face discussions.
- To request that ICS ensure that any new provision of facilities isn't a downgrading of services for the residents of the town.
- To request that ICS ensure that the process for consultation with the public is both proper and appropriate and includes an impact assessment.
- To request that a specific exercise regarding travel and access to any new location be undertaken. This should include a clear intention and measures to encourage active travel and ensuring that vital provisions are made for those who cannot travel.

The group agreed that the questions for the meeting with ICS be constructed in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

08/22 LISTENING EXERCISE FEEDBACK

Councillor Dartnall reported that, since the last working group meeting, she had attended an online listening exercise session with the ICS. About 20 others had attended the session, the majority of whom were Marden Medical Practice patients. She reported that they were split about 50/50 on whether or not a new location was an issue but, given the session was online, the demographic may be skewed. The biggest concern those attending had was about the horror stories they had heard about the Severn Fields Medical Practice.

Councillor Halliday also reported that she had attended a session where most of the other attendees had been patients of the Belle Vue Practice. A lot of the session had focussed on pushing the benefits of a new hub. Two PR representatives from the ICS had attended but they were there to gather feedback rather than answer questions. The major concerns expressed were about travelling to the hub and the loss of relationships with current GPs and nurses.

AGREED:

Councillor Halliday agreed to send the slide deck used to the Deputy Town Clerk to be circulated to the working group.

09/22 GENERAL UPDATES ON THE HUB INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillors Halliday and Bentick reported back on their meeting with Rachel Robinson, the Director of Public Health at Shropshire Council. They had had a general discussion about the proposals for a new hub and the ICS boards which, they all agreed, were in their infancy. They had asked her what she thought would be the best way to raise questions and concerns and she had said that this would be best done through scrutiny panels and council meetings. She also said that she hasn't been delighted with the lack of consultation so far.

Councillor Halliday also provided feedback on a recent Joint Overview and Health Scrutiny Committee. She had asked a couple of questions including whether any savings to be made by establishing a new hub (estimated to be around £3.3 million) would be spent on increasing the primary care workforce. She was told that no, it wouldn't, the money would just be spent on the building but that an application could be made for more staffing once the hub was up and running.

She also reported that the ICS had now said that the six medical practices would remain separate despite being in under roof. Clarity needed to be sought on exactly what this meant as it wasn't clear to the group how any cost savings could be made if that was the case.

Councillor Halliday then reported that Dr Charlotte Hart from the ICS had said that transportation to the hub would be the responsibility of Shropshire Council. As a result she had contacted the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure directly to ask the following question:

'If it goes ahead, the proposed Health and Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury will result in six practices in South Shrewsbury moving into one building (possible in Meole Brace) in 2025. This would result in the majority of the 45,000 patients involved being required to travel further in order to see their GP/primary care practitioner. It is likely that this will also increase travel for staff. Many residents are

stating that they will need to rely on the bus services in order to attend an appointment, where previously they had walked. This could involve two bus journeys each way for many residents. In an interview with radio Shropshire on 17 May 2022, the Clinical Lead for the proposed Health and Wellbeing Hub stated that any transport infrastructure would need to be met by Shropshire Council. Is this Shropshire Council's understanding and, if the Health and Wellbeing Hub goes ahead, would Shropshire Council plan to increase the bus service for patients and staff, with direct bus services for the areas affected, and would the Council improve active travel (walking and cycling) to the new hub in the areas involved?'

She had had the following response:

'Shropshire Council have been invited to attend Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub meetings along with other partners as key stakeholders. As a stakeholder at these meetings and with the Council's role in developing transport infrastructure including the Local Transport Plan, the Council has agreed to lead the work to consider the transport infrastructure required around the proposed hub and coordinate any response. However, the Council is not solely responsible for meeting this transport infrastructure. The Integrated Impact Assessment, requested by officers, will consider impact and risks associated with a change in location of services and will include consideration of local traffic and congestion, travel times and access. Work will need to be undertaken to mitigate any perceived negative impacts. Shropshire Council will consider the findings of the Integrated Impact Assessment in any proposed response. In the meantime, the Council is in initial discussions with the project leads for this programme considering the evidence and needs to support the transport element. The Council acknowledge that this will include looking at the bus infrastructure in this location and additional support. The work would need to be read closely with the Local Transport Plan 2022-2023 and the Active Travel Plan.'

Councillor Bentick responded by saying that the new organisation is responsible for an integrated health system which would include responsibility for social as well as health care. This would include transport. He also said that he was still getting a lot of concerns about a new hub from residents in his ward.

Councillor Moseley asked who owned most of the current medical practice buildings. Councillor Halliday responded that some rent, some own and some are owned by private finance initiatives. Councillor Bentick added that a number of the leases on buildings are ending.

Councillor Dartnall asked if there had yet been any clarification about what additional services would be offered from the hub? It was suggested that this was raised at the meeting with the ICS.

10/22 UPDATE AND AGENDA SETTING FOR THE UPCOMING MEETING WITH ICS

It was noted that the group would be meeting with Claire Parker and Emma Pyrah on 28 July 2022 at 10.00am. A room would be booked at Shirehall for this purpose. Councillor Bentick requested that this also be made a hybrid meeting. ICS would be asked to make a 5-10 minute presentation on where they are so far at the start of the meeting.

All STC councillors had also been invited to attend a focus group regarding the hub.

The group then decided to formulate a number of questions for the meeting with ICS as detailed at the end of these minutes. The group would add to these in advance of the meeting.

11/22 NEXT STEPS

The group then discussed what actions they would take following the meeting with ICS. It was agreed that they would draft a paper and letter to ICS to be considered and agreed at Full Council on 5 September 2022.

The group had discussed previously getting legal advice on the consultation process ICS needed to go through. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that if they wished to incur legal costs this would need to first be approved by Finance and General Purposes Committee or Full Council. It was therefore agreed to include this in the paper to be taken to Full Council in September.

12/22 FUTURE MEETING DATES

It was agreed that the next meeting of the working group would take place on 29 September 2022 at 11.00am.

13/22 QUESTIONS

1. Is there yet any clarification about what additional services would be offered from the hub?
2. It has been stated publicly that all six practices will remain separate. What exactly does this mean? How will it affect the service to patients? How can efficiencies be made if this is the case?
3. What is the timetable for determining the location, when the hub might open and what services will be offered?
4. When will the results of the consultation be made available? What will be the next steps after that?
5. There has been an indication that the hub will provide services patients would normally go to the hospital for. What will these be?
6. Given the importance of patient feedback, will ICS write to every patient affected by the proposals to make them aware of the consultation particularly given not everyone uses the internet?