

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET 6th April 2017

FULL A&E SERVICES AT THE PRINCESS ROYAL HOSPITAL

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RICHARD OVERTON, DEPUTY LEADER & MEMBER FOR HOUSING, LEISURE & HEALTH

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals Trust Board met on the 30th March and have agreed for the need for the Trust to develop business continuity plans with regard to their A&E services. It is expected that it will take 6 months to develop these continuity plans and the need to develop them is as a consequence of the current fragility of medical staffing in A&E. The Trust will only implement these plans should it become necessary and have indicated that it is possible to step back at any point if their consultant staffing position becomes more resilient. The Trust's initial review of the options suggests that the option to suspend full A&E services overnight at the Princess Royal Hospital now needs to have detailed plans developed.

The Leader & Deputy Leader have made representations nationally and locally regarding this decision. The Council's PRH4Me will shortly reach 30,000 pledges as at the beginning of this week and arrangements will be made to present these at Westminster. Given the strength of public feeling a public rally is also being arranged for Sunday, 23rd April.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report and discuss the Cabinet's response to Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust's need to develop business continuity plans for their A&E services.

To note that the PRH4Me campaign will shortly reach 30,000 pledges and a public rally is to take place on the 23rd April

To note that the Future Fit Board are commissioning an independent review of the appraisal processes that have been undertaken in order to make a recommendation on a preferred option for hospital reconfiguration.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Improve Health & Wellbeing and protect and support vulnerable children and adults.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The Trust has yet to publish an impact assessment but the impact will be felt by those groups who use the A&E services during the night and potentially those patients who use the services at PRH with clinical interdependencies with the A&E – e.g. Women & Children’s, Head & Neck and Stroke services.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The Trust has indicated that it will take 6 months to develop detailed business continuity plans.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendation in this report. KC
LEGAL ISSUES	Not at present	There are no immediate legal implications at present from the Trust’s proposed Service Continuity Plans. However Legal Services will continue to closely monitor the situation and advise the Leader and Cabinet in respect of the Trust’s actions and compliance with their statutory duties and responsibilities to the residents of Telford and Wrekin; and recommend appropriate actions and/or proceedings that can be taken should the Trust breach those duties and responsibilities.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The key risk is that if the Trust’s has to implement their business continuity plans with regard to suspending full A&E services overnight at PRH this is contrary to the Council’s agreed policy to maintain 24 hour A&E services at PRH.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals Trust Board met on the 30th March and have agreed for the need for the Trust to develop business continuity plans with regard to their A&E services. It is expected that it will take 6 months to develop these continuity plans and the need to develop them is as a consequence of the current fragility of medical staffing in A&E. The Trust will only implement these plans should it become necessary and have indicated that it is possible to step back at any point if their consultant staffing position becomes more resilient. The Trust's initial review of the options suggests that the option to suspend full A&E services overnight (8pm to 8am) at the Princess Royal Hospital now needs to have detailed plans developed.

The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals Trust highlight that this decision has been taken as a result of a recent resignation and the Trust being unable to recruit substantively to the advertised A&E consultant posts that means that from June 2017 the two A&E departments at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) and the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) will only have 4 substantive A&E consultants with an on-call rota of 1 in 3. There are a further 4 Locum consultants also employed at present with Trust Board agreement to employ an additional two. These latter two locums have been appointed but an existing locum has since chosen to leave. The Trust have described that if additional A&E consultants were recruited the Trust could avoid having to enact business continuity plans.

In December 2015, SaTH outlined the need to develop service continuity plans for Emergency Care. The Trust originally outlined a full 7 options and these options did not specify which site - RSH or PRH – would be affected. After two stakeholder workshops, by March 2016, only one **site specific** option namely to close full A&E services overnight at PRH was on the table with the Trust Board recommending, however, to seek mutual aid to sustain the current level of service as their preferred option.

There are a number of services at PRH that have interdependencies with A&E services – Women & Children's, Head & Neck services and Stroke services. The Trust have described that further work is required to consider and reduce the risks associated with these service interdependencies. A quality impact assessment also needs to be completed.

The Leader and Deputy Leader have written to the Secretary of State on the 30th March 2017 seeking his urgent intervention to secure additional consultant staff. The Leader has previously written twice, with the Leader of Shropshire Council, to the Secretary of State seeking his support to maintain the current A&E services until the long term decisions with regard to hospital reconfiguration are taken.

The #PRH4Me campaign (www.prh4me.co.uk) will shortly reach 30,000 pledges, underlining the strength of feeling for services at the PRH about our hospitals.

Once this figure is reached the Council will be arranging for these pledges to be taken to Westminster, ideally Downing Street, to be presented to Government to ensure that decision-makers are fully aware of support for the PRH and retaining key services there.

Separately and in response to public requests the Council will organise a march for the PRH to take place on 23 April to march from Wellington to near the PRH. Final details of the route and timings are now being finalised and once confirmed will be published.

The PRH4Me campaign will continue after this, keeping followers regularly updated of developments via email, web and social media. Since it launched just over a year ago, the public have shared more than 530 of their stories of support for the PRH via www.prh4me.co.uk

In December 2016, the Future Fit programme Board made a recommendation to the Joint CCG Committee to go out to consultation with a preferred option to locate the single specialist Emergency Care centre for the area in Shrewsbury together with the Women and Children's Unit. However following concerns raised by the Council, the Joint CCG Committee did not back the recommendation and asked for an independent review to be undertaken of the appraisal processes. Telford & Wrekin Council had identified potential flaws in the process and had sought an independent review. The Cabinet Office Gateway Review subsequently also called for an independent review of the process.

The Future Fit Board is currently commissioning this review before any further recommendation to the Joint CCG Committee, made up of both Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire CCGs and three independent voting members. Next steps will then need to be determined based on the findings of the independent review.

Further significant #PRH4Me will continue to make the case for the best hospital services possible for borough residents and the many Shropshire residents for whom the PRH is their hospital.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To be completed.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals Trust Board papers.

<http://www.sath.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-information/trustboard-papers/>

Report prepared by Liz Noakes Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing, Telephone: 01952 830003 & Nigel Newman, Corporate Communications Manager, Telephone: 01952 382403.