

# HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2022

## PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

### Public Question from Catriona Graham

*Given the disappointing start to consultation on the new Health Hub last autumn, with few members of public aware there was a proposal and Shropshire Council at officer and Member level only alerted by media reports, how can Shropshire Council ensure that an open, fair and transparent consultation will now take place, including on the key issue of the location of the building?*

### Response:

From a Shropshire Council perspective, in January 2021, the Leader and Chief Executive were asked to give their commitment to work with partners as a stakeholder in this project led by the CCG in recognizing the potential opportunities and challenges this proposed model and NHS investment in community and primary care health and wellbeing services in Shrewsbury, could bring to local communities. This work initially involved supporting requests to identify potential areas of land suitable for the proposed hub.

In September 2021, reference to the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub was included as part of the regular Integrated Care System update to the Health and Wellbeing Board for the first time. At this point the work had begun to move to listening and engagement exercises led by the Clinical Commissioning Group. At this board, the Director of Public Health asked that a full Integrated Impact Assessment be carried out and members of the Board also asked that it come to Health Overview and Scrutiny.

This item was brought to Scrutiny for the first time in May 2022 due to delays through Omicron and timing/agenda of committees. The Committee has requested, and the Clinical Commissioning Group (now Integrated Care System) has committed, to bring regular updates on this issue and primary care more generally, through to this Committee where developments can be monitored.

At this previous meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May the CCG (now ICS), confirmed to the Committee that, following the engagement exercises an options

appraisal will be developed which will result in a full Public Consultation. The expectation of this Committee is that it will be brought to the Committee before publication for comment in the Autumn.

## **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

### **Councillor Bernie Bentick**

*1. In view of the secrecy and admission of inadequate public engagement regarding the huge implications of the proposed Shrewsbury Health & Wellbeing Hub by Shropshire's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), will this Committee, Shropshire Council's Health Watchdog, request that the new Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board conducts a formal and robust Public Consultation on the effects of this radical experiment on Shrewsbury's Healthcare, which will result in the closure of 6 local GP Practice sites and location to a single new site?*

#### **Response:**

You may recall at the previous meeting of this Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, that presentation was received by the Committee from the CCG which clarified that the engagement process was just beginning and that this would take place from February through to May 2022. Further stakeholder sessions would be planned with local members specifically; these have been confirmed for the last week in July. Following the engagement work, an options appraisal will be developed which will result in a full Public Consultation. The Committee have and will request that the Consultation document is brought to the Committee before publication for comment.

At that meeting the CCG confirmed that no practices will close as a result of this work, rather practices will move to coalesce in a new building.

### **Councillor Bernie Bentick**

*2. Will this Committee, Shropshire Council's Health Watchdog, require the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System to maintain a footprint in each location due to be vacated by 6 of Shrewsbury's GP Practices, to provide a truly local service to those with poor mobility?*

#### **Response:**

This Committee does not have any power to require the Integrated Care System (ICS) to maintain a footprint in each location; it can make recommendation to the ICS. The Integrated Impact Assessment will consider impact and risks associated with a change in location of services

(such as impacts on transport, deprivation, social needs and impact and risks to those with protected characteristics) and what can be done to mitigate any perceived negative impacts. The Committee will consider this assessment alongside the proposals and outputs of the Consultation in the making of any recommendations to the ICS.