

Dorset CCG Consultation and Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury
Summary of the Public Meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at
Shaftesbury School

Around 160 members of the public attended the meeting

Mayor of Shaftesbury

Cllr John Lewer

Mayor of Gillingham

Cllr Barry von Clemens

Wiltshire MP

Andrew Murrison MP

Panel members:

Dorset CCG:

Tim Goodson
Karen Kirkham
Sally O'Donnell
Simon Yule

Dorset Adult and Community Care:

Helen Coombes

The Mayor of Shaftesbury opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introduced the Chair of the WMH Working Group, Cllr Anthony Austin who would be Chairing the meeting.

Cllr Austin gave a brief introduction and explained that the WMH Working Group was made up of representatives from Town and Parish Councils, from Dorset and Wiltshire, local organisations and residents.

Dr Simone Yule gave a presentation on behalf of the DCCG, explaining about the introduction of integrated services and how those already implemented had made an impact to the care patients were receiving. A copy will accompany these notes.

Dr Yule stated that of the 20,000 consultation documents issued for Shaftesbury and Gillingham, only 575 had been returned.

Questions and Answers

Mr Parker - Melbury Abbas & Cann PC

Q: There appeared no visibility regarding affordability between Shaftesbury Hospital against palliative care costs

A: Supporting documents on CCG website. Costs looked at Dorset wide not by specific area. WMH costs approx. twice that in a care home – this was bed v bed and did not include OT etc., costs.

A decision would be made later this year and a 5 year plan put in place which would include care homes in Shaftesbury and Gillingham. Need to continue to have the right beds in the right place.

Annabel Westall – The Cedars

Confirmed that The Cedars does have care beds and figures show that the cost is £900 against £1600 for WMH.

A J Morris

Q: Nothing in the paperwork about selling the hospital. It was gifted to citizens of Shaftesbury and still belongs to Shaftesbury

A: Selling WMH not in the proposal. Some Community Hospitals are not suitable and the WMH is not in very good condition.

D Ripper

Q: The consultation has been running for 6-7 months, and there have been 3 public meetings, a petition and the support of 2 MPs and Mayors. You have not listened to proposals and not modified the consultation document.

A: There is a 3 month consultation period and it will take a further 2-3 months for the analysis of the questionnaires. The CCG will then consider the responses. It would not be appropriate to change the information mid-consultation.

Simon Hoskin

Q: The Health Service is reactive and Dr Yule says they want to be proactive, what will that mean in practice?

A: Increases in funding are not keeping up with demand. Dorset Healthcare are developing integrated teams with virtual wards. This will change how to manage patients care. Looking at how to offer in a different way taking into account the needs of patients and continuity of care.

David Walsh – District and County Councillor

Q: There is no argument about medical expertise. Who did the modelling? The Local Plan states that this is the fastest growing area in the Region with 1800 homes planning for Gillingham over the next period and this doesn't appear to have been taken into account. Dr Y believes that Blandford and Sherborne have largest the population – where is the evidence that you have re-modelled your figures since the Local Plan was completed?

A: The documents were prepared with information from the ONS. We have not gone back over the figures. Housing requirements changing points towards how limited the number of beds are. We will not look at this now, but wait for the analysis.

Richard Tippins

Q: Can you say where in England a hub without beds works?

A: East Dorset as in Bournemouth have care home beds. Torbay, Bridport and Weymouth & Portland. Integrated teams in rural areas have

received a good response – Dorchester County Hospital have not been admitting so many and Community hospital length of stay is going down.

Helen Coombe, DCC Adult and Community Services

Few understand Adult and Community care until they need it. DCC have tried to protect funding – 50% of their budget is spent on Adult & Social Care.

The population is getting older and demand is increasing in Dorset. Demand is rising for Social Care as NHS not dealing with soon enough. The proposals are absolutely the right thing to do – there is a need for change.

The impact can be seen in Weymouth, we have to see things differently and enable people to live at home. I have talked to those on the ground who have seen the impact which has been made.

There are problems sourcing from the Care Market now. There are 3 services trying to service the same care and are not buying together. As from 1st April this will change. The Plan for the next 5 years is to work to develop the care market, but it takes time. How to attract people into the care market has to be co-ordinated.

Ex Community Nurse

Q: Community Nurses have been cut in Shaftesbury and are now based in Marnhull, why?

A: There is a challenge in recruiting. Torbay have a Care academy in a school. We have to work with the local market but are not cutting Community Nurses.

Jane Unwin

Q: You state that there is no plan to sell WMH, but Q 2 states the possibility of a different site, why has it been worded that way?

A: The CCG have been open about the old, difficult location and condition of WMH. There is nothing further than asking the question – we want you to tell us by answering the question.

Q: What other locations are you looking at?

A: No other locations have been looked at.

Anne Hobbs – Trustee, The Cedars

Q: What will happen to the x-ray department, Physio and Minor Injuries unit?

A: We will provide these and more

Hannah McLean – End of Life Care, Salisbury

Q: Will it be faster for end of life care that is required urgently

A: There have been difficulties, but want a clear path for admitting patients quickly. 90% of people have wanted to stay at home.

Richard Thomas

Q: You haven't said you will change your mind following the consultation?

A: There will be no change in the consultation midway. Things are still evolving and we need to get as much input as we can. We will look at all options and continue to evolve.

Q: When did the consultation start in SW Wiltshire?

A: On 1st December 2016

Q: According to SW Wiltshire it didn't start until 1st January – will you extend the deadline for a month?

A: It has been on the website.

Our Area extends into SW Wiltshire, I hope this has been taken on board.

Tricia Reilly – Save our Beds!

Q: Many who have returned questionnaires are horrified at how Q1 is worded when explained. Q2 states a hub with no beds - there is no definition of what a 'hub' is.

I have been in touch with the Campaign for Plain English and they agree. Do the panel agree the questions are badly written and misleading?

A: There is only so much you can put in a questionnaire

Jan Morgan

Q: Are the care homes are full?

A: At times they are full but it fluctuates. We do need more capacity. The next phase is to draw up what the capacity need is and will consult. Wiltshire and Somerset have started to think about what it will look like to.

There will be no reductions until alternatives are up and running. Preliminary discussions are being held, but we don't want to predict the outcome of the consultation.

A N Other

Q: Who in SW Wiltshire was consulted? County and Local Councils didn't know anything about the consultation and Salisbury Hospital has no bed capacity.

A: The CCG have spoken to Wiltshire. There is no physical line and responses have been received.

Belinda Ridout – Gillingham TC

Q: Peripheral Beds – are they to be in care homes? Closing beds takes away choice. My 90year old father does not want to go into a care home.

A: We want to keep people at home if possible. If needed then would step-up into a care home bed.

Emma Unwin – Save our Beds! Volunteer

Q: Public transport – there are no buses to Sherborne and it takes 2 hours to get to Blandford. If you can get there, there are no buses to get you home. This makes it impossible for visitors and staff.

A: More care in the home will alleviate the transport problem.

A N Other

Q: There is no carer support in place for those caring at home. Support workers have 80/90 carers per person. This has an impact on transport and access needs to be taken into account.

A: We do have in Dorset CC together with the NHS and it is one of our biggest priorities.

Fovant PC

Q: Can there be a moratorium for 5 years while you test your theories. A press released in the Daily Telegraph on 16 November stated that 17 hospitals the size of Shaftesbury had been closed. Salisbury Hospital ring Shaftesbury twice a day asking if they have room

Mr Booth

Q: We are looking for reassurance. Nothing from the speakers has been affective.

Colin Richardson – Friends of Westminster Memorial Hospital

Q: Care homes are in crisis now, what can be expected in future?

A: The three funding streams will be working together, which is not happening now.

Lynn Taylor – Chilmark PC and Governor Salisbury Hospital

Q: The Chair of Salisbury Hospital has asked what will happen to patients on a daily basis. What is going to happen? Nothing was known about the consultation and proposals until last week.

A: Yes, there are many from Salisbury that come to the area. Integrated teams will reduce patient need and have already seen this working in Dorchester where plans are put together to enable them to go home. This will reduce the demand for beds.

A Murrison MP

- Operations have been cancelled because there are no beds available
- Delayed discharges
- Pressures on Salisbury – worry of stripping beds
- No heard reassurance
- SW Wiltshire constituency have not been consulted

- I ask you to extend the consultation
- Not happy with phraseology
- Dorset is not an island and is not obsessed with County Boundaries
- The consultation is fatally flawed

TG/CCG reiterated that no decision had been made and encouraged everyone to fill in the questionnaire. The consultation is about services in Dorset, not who uses them. Feedback can be provided from what had been done in Wiltshire.

We can talk about extending, but I don't see the need

Cllr Lower closed the meeting at 9:10pm