

## **Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –**

### **24th November 2020**

The meeting was held virtually – as usual, the agenda and various reports can be viewed on the Gloucestershire County Council website. Reading the ones of particular interest is recommended, as this is a brief overview.

**On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October an extra meeting was held to look at progress with the Fit for The Future Consultation and the Forest of Dean New Hospital Consultation.**

#### **Fit for the Future Consultation**

This consultation has been discussed numerous times during its progression. It has been a bit delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan was to look at the acute Hospitals, how they were functioning and how centres of excellence could be developed within existing resources. Keeping local access and having expert skills and knowledge centralised to one or other of the hospitals. This has been happening gradually for several years e.g. Cheltenham for Oncology and Gloucester for ophthalmology. It is seen as a continuation of this process.

There is not enough staff resources and Consultants to split some of the specialist services over the two sites. A specialist area will also attract new junior doctors, which the Trust needs to achieve.

The public consultation and the survey are available online, and runs until 17 December. There is a lot of information on One Gloucestershire's site and would recommend reading if of interest and you would like to comment.

#### **New Hospital for the Forest of Dean**

A new 24 bed hospital is to be built on the lower side of Cinderford. This will mean the closure of the current hospital provision at Lydney and the Dilke. The new hospital will have 24 en-suite rooms for inpatients care and treatment. It will also have a number of outpatient facilities. Further discussion and input is needed to determine what will be provided at the new hospital, and what will be provided at Lydney in a proposed new health centre. A consultation is running on this until 17 December. Again all the relevant reports and easy read versions are on the website.

The new hospital is to have an urgent care department that will run from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. This will include diagnostic services e.g. X Rays.

Comments are encouraged

## **Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust Annual Briefing to HOSC 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

It was felt the Trusts merger earlier this year was a big achievement and the benefits are starting to be seen and felt, and will continue. 'With You for You' is their motto, and what is strongly believed.

Hereford Mental Health services successfully transferred to Worcester earlier this year.

The Trust runs the seven Community Hospitals and two Mental Health inpatient units. Along with many community services.

Winter Planning – The Trust is part of the wider health care system in association with the Acute Hospital colleagues. Plans have been made to ensure they get through the winter, meeting needs and coping with the increased demands. There has been an introduction of the Home First Scheme. This encourages discharge as soon as medically fit to go home if possible or to a re-enablement resource. A care package will then be assessed and put into place. A Rapid Response team is also in operation to try to prevent hospital admissions by care in the community. 90% of the services are provided in the community, to increase independence and life opportunities.

All seven hospitals are set up to take COVID positive patients, alongside other patients.

The general hospitals continue, with Cheltenham being a green site and Gloucester Royal Hospital being both, with COVID specific wards.

The virus has had three phases so far. March – June was the response phase with 520 staff being deployed to meet other needs, as the pressures increased. 700 digital consultations took place in a week, face to face was still provided when necessary.

June saw the recovery phase.

Now in a response phase again but different from the first, and lots of learning has taken place. Examples of this were demonstrated with the Musculoskeletal Service, now self-referral. Also a lot of the Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies IAPT has moved to digital platforms to see more people with shorter wait times. The outcomes have been favourable.

Pillar 1 Testing teams have been set up to test all NHS frontline and care staff and families, so that people can get back to work as soon as possible. The fire service helped carry out tests within the care home settings. The Testing teams have now grown to 25 staff, so can go out to community hospitals if needed.

This team will also support Avian Flu if this becomes an issue and the roll out of any vaccination programme against COVID-19.

Pillar 2 testing is for the general public. This is at Hempstead and roaming sites. The tests get sent away so results can be a bit slower than Pillar 1 testing.

Mental Health Services provided a brief update. Points of note were the increased performance of the IAPT team, with the use of digital platforms.

Increased resources into Perinatal care in pregnancy and Postnatal depression for both partners.

Gloucester has high levels of Mental Health issues within the population so a Complex Emotional Needs team has been started, to help prevent admissions to Wotton Lawn Hospital.

There is also a new Street Triage service, that runs alongside the Police. A Mental Health nurse will go out with the Police if thought necessary.

The Crisis Team operates 24 hours a day seven days a week. This is a summary of the meeting.

Cllr Jill Smith 11/11/2020