

Questions from councillors to Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

25 January 2018

Question 1

Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes, Aylestone Hill Ward

There has been a great deal of public consternation regarding the proposed closure of the Hillside Centre. There appear to be no emails from the parish liaison officer, the usual conduit for consultation with parishes, nor can I find any reference to it until latterly from the CCG or Wye Valley Trust. How were parish councils or members of the public able to engage if no public notice was issued?

Answer

There was no public notice issued by the council because the Hillside Centre is run by Wye Valley NHS Trust and therefore not a council facility, nor was it a council decision to close the facility.

The council owns the building, and is purely the landlord in this instance. In fulfilling its function to review and scrutinise the planning, provision and operation of health services affecting Herefordshire, the matter has been included on the agenda at this meeting in response to concerns raised, including those made at the last meeting of this committee, about the depth and scope of engagement with the public on this matter.

Material concerns were offset by the broader reforms being proposed about rehabilitation and discharge, which, at the meeting on 16 November 2017, the committee was persuaded, albeit with some caution, provided more appropriate ways to support people to leave hospital.

Supplementary question from Cllr MD Lloyd-Hayes

I am concerned about the consultation process because of correspondence received, and that parish councils were not included, and I feel that the council has a duty to be engaged in the consultation. I request that the proposals be reviewed as they were not shared with the public and patients.

Answer

Herefordshire Council is the landlord.

Additional response to supplementary question from the accountable officer, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Advice was followed and contact was made with all parish councils, and they were invited to participate within the engagement process.