

Title of report: Relocation of Taurus Healthcare

Meeting: Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 28 May 2024

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

This report provides the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the proposal to relocate out of hours GP services in Herefordshire.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) The committee note the report; and**
- b) Make recommendations to Taurus Healthcare and to Herefordshire Council following scrutiny of the report.**

Alternative options

1. For scrutiny to not consider the proposed relocation. This is not recommended as the committee has a remit to carry out the “review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services affecting the area” on behalf of Herefordshire Council.

Key considerations

2. Out of hours GP care in Herefordshire is run by Taurus Healthcare on behalf of Herefordshire General Practice. If NHS 111 refer patients to this service, they may be asked to attend a face-to-face appointment. At the moment, this would be at the Station Medical Centre (near the train station), in Hereford. However, there are plans to move this service to a new location from this

autumn. This will not affect home visits or other health services run from Station Medical Centre delivered by Hereford Medical Group. The new location is proposed to be the Nelson Building, which is on Whitecross Road in Hereford, close to the city centre.

3. A presentation from Taurus Healthcare is attached at Appendix 1. The committee is invited to provide any suggestions / feedback to mitigate barriers should the proposals be accepted.

Community impact

4. Scrutiny committees do not make decisions for Herefordshire Council. They make recommendations to Cabinet and to Council, which those bodies must decide whether to accept or reject. The community impact of implementing any recommendation should be assessed when Cabinet or Council decide to adopt the recommendation.

Environmental impact

5. Whilst this is a decision on back office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the council's Environmental Policy.

Equality duty

6. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this is a decision on back office functions, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

Resource implications

7. There are no resource implications in considering this report and appendices.

Legal implications

8. Herefordshire Council has designated statutory health scrutiny powers including the review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services affecting the area and to make reports and recommendations on these matters to the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny.
9. It has the responsibility to make reports and recommendations to a responsible person on any matter it has reviewed or scrutinised or to be consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider in accordance with the Regulations (2013/218) as amended. In this regard health service includes services designed to secure improvement:
 - a. in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and
 - b. in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness, and
 - c. any services provided in pursuance of arrangements under section 75 in relation to the exercise of health-related functions of a local authority

Risk management

10. There are no specific risks identified in considering this report.

Consultees

No consultation was carried out in the production of this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Presentation: Consideration of the proposed move of GP Out of Hours Service

Background papers

None identified