

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STROKE SERVICES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider an update on the development of stroke services within the County.

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. On 23rd March the Committee was informed of the outcome of a review of stroke service provision and invited to consider proposals that had been developed on potential ways of improving stroke services within current resources.
4. The Committee was told how the proposals had been developed, the proposed future measures for stroke prevention, acute stroke care, stroke rehabilitation and long term support. In relation to stroke rehabilitation it was noted that the proposal was that this all took place at one intermediate care unit: Hillside in Hereford. The impact on current activity at Hillside was outlined to the Committee.
5. The Committee's principal concern about the proposals related to the implications of for some patients from Hereford City and Golden Valley requiring general intermediate care, but not specialist stroke rehabilitation, who would need to be treated in other Intermediate Care/Community Hospital Units.
6. The Committee was advised that the intention was that any impact would be mitigated by full use of all 22 beds at Hillside, access to community hospital beds and a review of access arrangements to the 126 community hospital/intermediate care beds, with proposals for using them differently. It was noted that a new Unit might be more ideal but that was not a practical option. If progress were to be made an incremental approach was the best way forward. It was emphasised that whilst a bed at Hillside might no longer be available to some patients those patients would still receive the care they required.
7. The Committee acknowledged the importance of making some progress in developing stroke services and that the proposals should accordingly be supported. However, it was requested that the implementation of the proposals should be carefully monitored.

8. An update on the development of stroke services within the County is appended upon which the Committee is invited to comment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Stephanie Canham, Head of Adult Social Care on 01432 260320