

GP-LED WALK-IN HEALTH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

**Report By: Euan McPherson, Programme Manager,
Equitable Access To Primary Care**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the development of a GP-led walk-in health centre for Herefordshire.

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. As part of the NHS Next Stage Review being led by Lord Darzi, each Primary Care Trust in England is tasked with developing a GP-led health centre which will be open from 8am until 8pm, seven days a week, which can provide booked appointments and walk-in services to registered and non-registered patients.
4. The report on the herefordshire proposed model (attached) notes that there has been mounting concern locally, regionally and nationally about the affordability of these centres, and about their suitability for rural areas. Key findings of a local needs assessment undertaken as a result of these concerns are:
 - Herefordshire's local needs assessment shows that the county is well provided with accessible GPs and primary care services, that 87% of local people are happy with existing GP services, and that existing GP services should be able to accommodate predicted population growth.
 - The needs assessment also shows that any new development should be based in Hereford City as a result of the demographics of the county, commuter travel flows and existing service delivery models.
 - 22,400 people commute into Hereford City each day. These are potential users of a walk-in service.
 - A Hereford City based service could reduce inappropriate attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) and provide more appropriate services to some patients.
 - The re-tendering of medical and dental out-of-hours (OOH) services in conjunction with the GP-led walk-in health centre offers an opportunity for a local solution.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers what comments it may wish to make on the proposed development in the light of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Equitable access to primary medical care services – Herefordshire PCT proposed model
- Herefordshire PCT EAPC needs analysis
- Equitable access to primary medical care – Herefordshire PCT Procurement Scheme
- Procurement Scheme Annex A - Herefordshire PCT countywide medical OOH, dental OOH and a GP-led health centre
- Stakeholder analysis EAPC