

Questions from councillors to the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

13 January 2020

The following question relates to agenda item 7, Minor injury units. The associated documents can be viewed at the following:

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=50032903&Opt=3>

Question

From: Councillor Paul Symonds, Ross East Ward

Herefordshire Council has the power to refer decisions made by local health service providers to the Secretary of State. One of the grounds for doing this is that the Council has not been consulted about the decision and is not satisfied that the reason given for not consulting the Council is adequate.

In light of this could Wye Valley NHS Trust and CCG explain why the Council should not refer the decision to close the county's minor injury units to the Secretary of State?

Response

Chairperson of the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

Thank you for your question. As the question is addressed to the responsible health bodies, the acting Director of Operations of NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has provided the following response:

The decision to temporarily close the Wye Valley NHS Trust's Leominster and Ross-on-Wye Minor Injury Units were taken to improve the safety of its A&E Department as a result of plans to address the high volume demand generated in winter months. This decision was taken by Wye Valley NHS Trust, in conjunction with NHS Herefordshire CCG, with oversight by Herefordshire Accident and Emergency Delivery Board. During last 12 months 60,560 patients attended the A&E Department – this is an increase of 5,000 compared to a year ago.

The temporary change has been made under regulation 23 (2) of the s.244 regulations because of a risk to the safety of patients.

If this change did not affect the safety or welfare of patients or staff, and a service change was proposed, then NHS Herefordshire CCG as the local NHS commissioner, would follow the full process as set out by the requirement placed on the NHS to consult the Local Authority under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (the 2013 Regulations) of the s.244 NHS Act 2006. This applies to substantial service change proposed to NHS services.