

Questions from members of the public to the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

2 March 2020

The following question relates to agenda item 7, NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC). The associated documents can be viewed via the following link:

[NHS Continuing Healthcare \(NHS CHC\) report](#)

Written question submitted in advance of the meeting

From: Andrea Davis

Why do Herefordshire CCG's figures for CHC eligibility continue to be consistently below the national average for CHC eligibility per 50k of population?

Response provided in advance of the meeting

Chairperson of the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

Thank you for your question. The question has been put to the responsible health body and the following response has been provided on behalf of NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

From: Linda Allsopp, Associate Director of Nursing and Quality

It is essential to note that there may be variations between CCGs, STPs and Regions when compared against each other. This could be due to a wide variety of reasons including (but not limited to) the age dispersion within the local population, variations between geographical areas in terms of their levels of health needs, and the availability of other local services for example step down beds, intermediate care, rehabilitation services, and other CCG community services.

Supplementary question asked at the meeting

From: Andrea Davis

Given that CHC is a legal entitlement, it is inherent in the functions of this committee to understand the mismatch and to be able to explain the underlying trends. Trisha O'Gorman (the head of NHS CHC at the Department of Health) stated that there is an almost a complete overlap between CHC eligibility and the definition of disability under the Equality Act. Is there a correlation between CHC eligibility and the numbers of those considered disabled? And can you clarify further the reasons for the low eligibility rates in Herefordshire overall?

Response provided at the meeting

From: Linda Allsopp, Associate Director of Nursing and Quality

The CCGs across Herefordshire and Worcestershire are regulated by NHS England. We follow the national framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare, which is a primary health need test approach, looking at the four key indicators of an individual's needs; that is nature, complexity, intensity and unpredictability. We are regulated by NHS England in

terms of an appeals process which goes through a local appeal process, leading to an independent review process. Really, the national framework is our Bible that we have to follow. We work in partnership with our local authorities colleagues, they are included in multidisciplinary meetings and if we have any disputes around eligibility, our local authority colleagues are part of that dispute resolution process.