

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

29 March 2021

Question

From: Andrea Davis

Question for Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group regarding NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

On March 2nd 2020 at the Adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee, Herefordshire CCG could provide no credible explanation for the low rates of CHC awarded. This picture has not changed with 2019-20 (pre covid) Q2 Figures with Herefordshire 173rd of 191 CCGs. Herefordshire is 33.65 (59% of England number), England overall is 57.38 and Salford is 211.81, so you're more than 6.29 times more likely to get CHC there than in Herefordshire.

Question: Please provide a *specific* explanation of why that is the position in Herefordshire accounting for why the rates for CHC are so low.

The source data is available here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/>

Response

From: Tom Grove, Associate Director of Communications and Engagement, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Over the past two years, expenditure on Continuing Health Care (CHC) packages in Herefordshire has increased from £11,990,468 to £13,375,592.

There are several factors which contribute to CHC data variation, including differences between local commissioning arrangements in each CCG and Local Authority area. In Herefordshire, in addition to CHC fully funded care packages there are numerous integrated care packages jointly funded between the CCG and Herefordshire Council. Integrated care package data is not nationally captured or routinely consistently adopted by all CCGs and Local Authorities in England and is therefore not reflected in the reported figures.

Although NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG is not considered an outlier in terms of CHC eligibility figures by NHS England, this is an extremely complex area and there can sometimes be differing views. Where there are differences of opinion between Herefordshire Council and the CCG, there is a very clear process in place for reviewing the implementation of CHC practice.

Working in close partnership with Herefordshire Council, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG remains committed to providing the very best outcomes for the population of Herefordshire.