

## **Title of Report: Proposed relocation of the general practice out of hours service in Hereford**

**Meeting:** Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

**Meeting date:** 29 July 2024

**Report by:** The Statutory Scrutiny Officer

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

Non-key

### **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

### **Purpose**

This report provides the committee with details of the proposed relocation of the out of hours general practice service for Herefordshire. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have agreed to this relocation, subject to approval by Herefordshire Council's Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

### **Recommendations**

- a) That the committee note the presentation.
- b) That the committee approve the proposals, or provide Taurus Healthcare with recommended actions to enable the committee to approve the proposals.

### **Alternative options**

None proposed.

## **Key considerations**

1. Herefordshire NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) commissions Taurus Healthcare to provide out of hours general practice services in Herefordshire. Taurus Healthcare have recently submitted and consulted on proposal to relocate its service to integrate with other urgent care community health services and its operational and infrastructure support teams. The service base will remain in central Hereford.
2. The Integrated Care Board have approved the relocation, subject to approval by Herefordshire Council's Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The committee had intended to scrutinise this proposal in advance of the ICB decision, at the committee's planned meeting in May 2024. However the general election pre-election period prevented NHS participation in scrutiny.
3. Taurus Healthcare held an informal workshop with committee members on 3 June 2024, at which committee members were supportive of the proposed relocation. In order to be able to formally approve the proposal, the committee is required to do so at a formal meeting of the committee.
4. Taurus Healthcare will present the proposals to the committee, using the presentation attached as appendix 1.

## **Community impact**

5. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, the council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

## **Environmental impact**

6. There are no direct environmental impacts connected with this report or the outcomes it seeks to deliver.

## **Equality duty**

7. There are no specific equalities impacts.
8. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:
9. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –
  - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

### **Resource implications**

11. There are no resource implications arising from this report, however, fulfilling the recommendations and considerations outlined in the report may require investment from the council and wider partners.
12. Resource implications should be considered as part of the requested report to Cabinet on the executive response to the scrutiny recommendations.

### **Legal implications**

13. The council is required to deliver a scrutiny function.
14. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **Risk management**

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
There is a reputational risk to the council if the scrutiny function does not operate effectively.	The arrangements for the notification of recommendations from the scrutiny committees and agreement of an Executive Response should help mitigate this risk.

### **Consultees**

None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Presentation to the committee on the proposal to relocate the out of hours general practice service for Herefordshire.

### **Background papers**

None