

# Keeping hospital services in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

## Public consultation

This is a summary of a public consultation document on local NHS proposals to change how and where some specialist hospital services are provided. Under the proposals, some specialist services would move from the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, and vice versa. The purpose of the proposed changes is to make sure that patients receive safe, high quality care and that our two hospitals can continue to serve the people of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid-Wales for a long time to come.

**If the proposed changes take place, most patients would still go to the same hospital as now**

Both hospitals would have a 24-hour accident and emergency department.

Patients needing treatment for broken limbs would go to the same hospital as now.

Most outpatients would continue to go to the same hospital as now.

Most patients having day surgery would go to the same hospital as now.



Urgent medical cases (such as heart attacks and chest infections) would go to the same hospital as now.

Children who have urgent needs would be assessed as now at both sites for the majority of the time.

All women having their babies in a midwife-led unit would go to the same hospital as now for the birth.

All women would receive their outpatient antenatal care at the same hospital as now.

# Some specialist services need to change to prevent them moving out of our area

Over the past few years, hospital services have begun to leave our area, including some types of cancer surgery. These services are now provided from other hospitals, because it was not possible for us to maintain the right quality of specialist treatment locally. We want to stop this happening in future.

## 1 Delivering the best surgical care 24 hours a day

Today, most surgeons carry out a smaller range of more complex operations than their predecessors would have done. Patients benefit because increasingly skilled surgeons are able to deliver better results. But it means they are less able to work to the necessary standards in fields of surgery outside their specialist area.

This makes it difficult to organise services so that the right specialists are available, when needed, to assess and treat patients who arrive at hospital as emergencies at any time of day or night.

To ensure the best results for patients, we need to change how surgery is organised across the two hospitals. We believe the best way to do this is by concentrating emergency surgery and most specialist inpatient surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Under these proposals, most day case surgery would continue to be done where it is now, and most outpatient appointments before and after surgery would be held where they are now.

## 2 Improving the quality of maternity care currently provided in a deteriorating 40-year old building

Built in 1969, the maternity building at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital is in poor condition and very cramped. The lack of space means there is only one operating theatre to deal with emergencies during labour. This is a safety concern. The neonatal intensive care unit, also based in the maternity building, is very short of space.

Even if money is spent on the building, its future life span is limited to between five and ten years. This accommodation is simply not good enough for maternity care in the 21st century. Our proposal is to move the consultant-led maternity unit and

neonatal intensive care unit from the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to the Princess Royal Hospital, where space is available and new facilities could also be built. This would cost an estimated £28 million, which is affordable, whereas the estimated cost of rebuilding at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital is £60 million, which is not affordable.

The midwife-led unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital would stay at that site, with improved accommodation, and outpatient antenatal care would continue to be provided at the hospital.

## 3 Providing the right level of care for children in hospital

With reduced numbers of children's specialist doctors nationally, our paediatric consultants are increasingly concerned about staffing our two existing children's units with the right level of doctors.

They believe that creating one unit for those children who need to stay overnight will help overcome this. There would still be children's assessment units at both hospitals.

Under our proposals, the children's inpatient unit would be based at the Princess Royal Hospital in future. Not only is there more space available than at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, but there are more children living in areas of health inequality or with vulnerable health needs located closer to the Princess Royal Hospital. National research shows they are likely to have a greater need for children's services.

## 4 Urology services

Urology involves treatment of the kidneys, bladder, urinary tract and prostate. Work is currently taking place to determine at which of our two hospitals inpatient urology should best be concentrated in future. Views are sought as part of the consultation.

## 5 Stroke services

We want to discuss the local pattern of stroke services, taking into account how best to introduce new techniques and develop services in line with modern standards. Views are sought as part of this consultation.

# Services that would be provided at our two general hospitals under the proposals:

## Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

24-hour A&E department

Emergency medical service (for example, heart attacks, serious chest infections)

Outpatient clinics

Day case procedures

Midwife-led maternity unit

Emergency and inpatient orthopaedic surgery

Major trauma (such as road traffic accidents)

Children's assessment unit (not overnight)

24-hour emergency surgery

Emergency and planned inpatient vascular surgery

Emergency and planned inpatient colorectal surgery

Emergency and planned inpatient upper gastro-intestinal surgery



## Princess Royal Hospital in Telford

24-hour A&E department

Emergency medical service (for example, heart attacks, serious chest infections)

Outpatient clinics

Day case procedures

Midwife-led maternity unit

Emergency and inpatient orthopaedic surgery

Children's inpatient unit

Children's assessment unit (24 hours)

Consultant-led maternity unit

Neonatal unit

Inpatient head and neck services, including ear, nose and throat

Inpatient gynaecology services and breast surgery services



# How local doctors, nurses and patients have been involved

Specialist doctors, nurses and other health professionals responsible for running the services concerned have helped to develop the proposals.

Some GPs from Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid-Wales have also been involved in looking at how best to make sure we keep specialist services in our two general hospitals.

Whilst not every single doctor may necessarily agree with every aspect of the proposals, it is fair to say that there is a broad consensus of local medical opinion in favour of them.

The proposals have also been shared with some patients and patients' representatives

from the areas served by our two hospitals, who were able to ask questions and express their views.

Finally, the proposals were looked at very closely by a panel made up of doctors and other experts from within and outside the area.

The proposals reflect what the doctors who provide the services, and the GPs who send their patients to use them, think should be done to improve safety and quality and make sure these services are provided within Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin for a very long time to come. They are most definitely not aimed at saving money or cutting services.

# Travel and transport for patients, carers and visitors: some ideas for discussion

Although, after the changes we are proposing, the majority of patients would still go to the same hospital as now, some of them would need to travel to a different hospital that is further away from where they live.

Whilst the number of those affected is likely to be relatively small in relation to the total

number of patients seen by both hospitals each year, we would need to look at ways of lessening the inconvenience to them and address any potential risks to people travelling longer distances in an emergency.

Some of the ideas put forward so far - all of which will be investigated further - include:

**A shuttle bus service between the two hospital sites for patients, visitors and staff**

**Use of telemedicine and technology to help patients at one hospital have consultations with doctors at another**

**Discussions with our local authorities about possible improvements in public transport**

**Ensuring the fastest possible 999 ambulance response times in emergencies**

**A study into whether it would be possible to run a helicopter ambulance at night**

**Ensuring that in emergencies children are taken to the hospital best able to deal with them safely, especially at night**

**A maternity 'flying squad' to deal with emergencies involving pregnant women who live in remote places**

**Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to have access to 'on call' children's specialists 24 hours a day**



# Public consultation

This public consultation runs from 9th December 2010 to 14th March 2011. During that time we want to hear the views of as many people as possible about our proposals.

## 1 Please let us have your views by 14th March 2011

- Complete the **feedback form** on pages 6, 7 and 8 and return it to:  
**FREEPOST RRZR-SZAA-BUBZ**  
**Reconfiguration of Hospital Services,**  
**Oak Lodge, William Farr House,**  
**Shropshire County NHS PCT, Mytton Oak Road,**  
**Shrewsbury SY3 8XL**

Alternatively, you can complete it on line at:

[www.shropshire.nhs.uk](http://www.shropshire.nhs.uk)

[www.telford.nhs.uk](http://www.telford.nhs.uk)

[www.sath.nhs.uk](http://www.sath.nhs.uk)

[www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk](http://www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk)

- Write a letter setting out your views to:  
**FREEPOST RRZR-SZAA-BUBZ**  
**Reconfiguration of Hospital Services,**  
**Oak Lodge, William Farr House,**  
**Shropshire County NHS PCT, Mytton Oak Road,**  
**Shrewsbury SY3 8XL**

- Email your views to: [ournhsinsat@nhs.net](mailto:ournhsinsat@nhs.net)

## 2 How you can get a copy of the full document

Copies of the full consultation document are available on request. Please call **01952 580478** or **0800 032 1107**.

Alternatively, you can download a copy by going on to the following websites:

[www.shropshire.nhs.uk](http://www.shropshire.nhs.uk)

[www.telford.nhs.uk](http://www.telford.nhs.uk)

[www.sath.nhs.uk](http://www.sath.nhs.uk)

[www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk](http://www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk)

## 3 Large print version and other languages

We can provide you with a large print version if you would prefer one. We can also provide it in other formats and languages. Please phone **01952 580478** or **0800 032 1107** or email [ournhsinsat@nhs.net](mailto:ournhsinsat@nhs.net)

## 4 Have your say at consultation meetings

During this consultation a number of open public meetings will be held so that you can find out more, ask questions and make your views heard. Full details will be on the following websites and will be advertised in local newspapers:

[www.shropshire.nhs.uk](http://www.shropshire.nhs.uk)

[www.telford.nhs.uk](http://www.telford.nhs.uk)

[www.sath.nhs.uk](http://www.sath.nhs.uk)

[www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk](http://www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk)

## 5 What will happen after consultation ends?

This public consultation will end on 14th March 2011. After that, all the responses we have received, both written and from comments at public meetings, will be analysed. A report on the analysis, which you can obtain by phoning 01952 580478 or 0800 032 1107 or by emailing us at [ournhsinsat@nhs.net](mailto:ournhsinsat@nhs.net), will be included in papers to be submitted to the boards of our three organisations:

- Shropshire County NHS Primary Care Trust
- NHS Telford and Wrekin
- The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

The meetings of all three boards will be held in public in March 2011. The dates will be posted on the websites listed on this page and will also appear in local news media.

The boards will decide, in the light of the outcome of this consultation, whether and how far to proceed with the proposals.

If the boards agree to proceed, it is expected that some changes may begin in the spring of 2011 and all the changes would be implemented by 2014.

Not all the changes would necessarily take place at the same time or at the same pace. Very careful planning would be needed. Patient safety would be a top priority at every stage in the process.

# A feedback form that you can complete and let us have with your views on our proposals

In analysing what people think, it would be helpful to us if you could respond to the following questions. But if there are other issues you would like to comment on, please let us have your views on those too.

## 1. What do you think about our overall proposals for services at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and The Princess Royal Hospital?

Strongly support  Support  No opinion  Against  Strongly against

## 2. CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### 2a. What do you think about our specific proposals for inpatient children's services?

Strongly support  Support  No opinion  Against  Strongly against

### 2b. What do you like about our proposals for inpatient children's services?

### 2c. What, if anything, worries you about our proposals for inpatient children's services?

### 2d. What would reassure you on any worries you may have?

### 3. MATERNITY SERVICES

3a. What do you think about our specific proposals for maternity services?

Strongly support  Support  No opinion  Against  Strongly against

3b. What do you like about our proposals for maternity services?

3c. What, if anything, worries you about our proposals for maternity services?

3d. What would reassure you on any worries you may have?

### 4. SURGERY

4a. What do you think about our specific proposals for surgery?

Strongly support  Support  No opinion  Against  Strongly against

4b. What do you like about our plans for surgery?

4c. What, if anything, worries you about our proposals for surgery?

4d. What would reassure you about any worries you may have?

### 5. UROLOGY AND STROKE SERVICES

Are there any comments you would like to make about the location of urology or about the future pattern of local stroke services?

### 6. OTHER COMMENTS

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

### 7. ABOUT YOU

*Finally, please can you fill in the following details about yourself. You will not be identifiable from any information you give us. Please let us know which of the following applies to you:*

**Responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (Circle as appropriate)**

- Patient          Member of public          NHS staff
- Voluntary/community organisation    Please state which .....
- Other organisation    Please state which .....
- Other, please state .....

**Gender (Circle as appropriate)**

- Male          Female

**Age (Circle as appropriate)**

- Under 15    15-24    25-44    45-64    65-74    75-84    85+

**Which Ethnic Group do you belong to? (Circle as appropriate)**

- White                          Chinese          Asian or Asian British          Polish
- Black or Black British    Mixed          Other Ethnic Group          Prefer not to say
- Other, please state: .....

**What is your postcode? .....**