

HEALTH IN DACORUM COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: 11 March 2021

ATTENDING

Councillors:

Councilor Guest (Chairman)	Councilor Maddern
Councilor Beauchamp	Councilor Johnson
Councillor Allen	Councillor Durrant

Outside Representatives:

Prof Jim McManus	Director of Public Health, HCC
Helen Brown	Deputy Chief Executive WHHT
Dr Tom Galliford	Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist
Kevin Minier	Chair, Dacorum Patients Group
Dr T Fernandes	Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
DBC Officers:	M Sells, Officer (Minutes)

The Meeting commenced at 7:30pm.

No.	AGENDA ITEM
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received on behalf of David Evans and Cllr Hollinghurst and Cllr Sinha.
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed, they will be signed at a later date.
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.
4	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION There was no public participation.
5	Covid-19 Update

Prof Jim McManus presented to the Committee.

Hertfordshire is currently below 100 cases per 100, 0000, although we are still above where we were last September.

The Kent variant B117 is the dominant strain across the UK.

At the peak 1 in 5 people who tested in Dacorum were positive, it is now 1 in 13 so the numbers have come down dramatically

In November there was a significant rise, most people were being infected in households in January that number has come down.

62.5% of eligible adults in Dacorum have received a first dose of the vaccine.

Looking at ethnicity there is a still gap regarding vaccination.

It should be expected that at every stage of the Governments road map there will be a rise in numbers. It is not yet certain if the vaccination stops transmission therefore All measures should still be taken to control the spread of the virus.

The Government's road map is as follows:

- 8 March - School returned
- 29 March - The rule of 6 will apply and the stay at home order will end
- 12 April – Retail and indoor leisure and outdoor hospitality will open.
- 17 May – indoor hospitality, hotels restaurants etc. will open
- 21 June – all restrictions end.

This is definite, these only apply if we all do our part and remain vigilant.

In Hertfordshire we have an additional obstacle to get through as there is an election pending, all local authorities have received guidance and Councillors will be updated if they haven't been already.

There is currently a push on renewing and refreshing the outbreak plan and all the programmes, this will be completed by Friday and submitted to the Government.

The key is everyone working together to ensure as things being to open up we control the spread and help people to self-isolate when required. There will be no hesitation in using enforcement powers where it is felt necessary, such as the case of Bovingdon Market which was recently shut down due to concerns.

Although it has been stated that it is inevitable there will be a third surge, we need to have the mind-set that we will do everything we can to avoid that happening, we will of course plan for this and that has already begun.

Jim welcomed questions form the committee.

Edie Glatter thanked Professor McManus for his presentation, she would like to know what the difference is between the vaccinations being organised nationally and those being organised by the GP, and why some people have already got their 2nd jab booked when others haven't. JM explained the whole process is being rolled out by the NHS through the national vaccination centres, the primary care networks and GP surgeries. He can confirm that every single person who has had their first vaccination is on a register to be recalled for their second.

Cllr Symington would like to know how test and trace fits in with the programme in terms of moving ahead. JM explains that as many people as possible need to test / trace and self-isolate. Tracing contacts is very important to control the virus. In Hertfordshire there is over 95% compliance with contact tracing.

Cllr Maddern would like to know if the lateral flow tests from schools will impact the figures. JM Confirms LF test results are held separately from PCR test results, this is due to the fact if a positive result is given from LF they are asked to perform a PCR test, if tests were not kept separate the figures would be duplicated, Therefore it will not impact the results and will give a better understanding. There has been a very low positivity rate in teachers and school children.

6

WEST HERTS HOSPITAL ESTATES UPDATE

Presented by Helen Brown and Dr Tom Galliford.

WHHT has recently launched an engagement program to look at the clinical service model across the three hospital sites, this is the focus of the presentation today.

Watford will continue as the emergency and special care site.

St Albans will be the main site for planned surgical care and planned cancer care, with some urgent care provision.

Hemel Hempstead will retain the urgent treatment center and be the main site for planned medical care and long term conditions.

There are a few main services which are replicated across all three sites, however, where possible, the aim is to try and not duplicated services.

The aim is to consolidate services, it is not viable to deliver all services on all sites.

It is hoped that 90% of the funding will be obtained therefore most of the services will be delivered from new purpose built facilities, in particular new inpatient wards with increased single room provision, this is very important, especially after the lessons learned over the past year with COVID.

Another important part of the proposal is Diagnostic facilities over all three sites being upgraded. All three hospitals will serve the whole of the West Herts catchment area.

Tom Galliford feels by consolidating medical specialties onto one site is the best option for practitioners and patients, he feels the outcomes will be better and the overall experience much more present.

This also allows for "Clean Sites" and "Acute Sites" in this day and age it is important to be able to provide this. The majority of medicine should be preventative, therefore keeping those patients

safe out of “Hot” sites should be a priority.

Having bespoke hubs of integrated clinical care away from the acute sites should be the standard and is something everyone should be working towards.

Helen Brown added that Hemel and St Albans will have complimentary service offers, Hemel will become the focus for long term conditions and medical specialties the main focus for St Albans will be surgical specialties and Cancer, this does mean that some of the surgical specialties which are provided at Hemel will relocate to St Albans, this includes outpatient service delivery and also endoscopy facilities.

Gastroenterology outpatients is still under consideration as to which site it will be located on.

The aim is to work towards a one stop shop, streamlining services and ensure diagnosis is provided as quickly as possible.

There is an independent organisation who will analyze the engagement feedback and provide a report.

Helen Brown welcomed questions.

Kevin Minier thanked them for the presentation, he is very interested in the integration side, he would like to know if the Marlows Health Centre will be relocated.

HB confirmed this is not currently part of the plan, at the moment the focus is on West Herts Delivered services and Buildings and investment.

Edie Glatter feels it doesn't make sense to travel around all the different sites, she feels it is very fragmented. She is glad they are reconsidering the gastroenterology relocation and urges them to let it remain on all sites, she enquired if phlebotomy will remain in Hemel.

HB thanked her from her comments and confirm and confirmed that Phlebotomy will also be located on all 3 sites.

Cllr Allen would like to know if the elderly and those who struggle with technology are being considered when it comes to more online and virtual appointments.

HB explained that they are working on a digital inclusion strategy, through Covid there has been a huge uptake in digital appointments and many people have found it better and more convenient, for those who aren't comfortable with the online appointments, face to face ones will still be provided

Kevin Miner asked if there are any beds available outside the Watford Site/ HB confirmed there are planned surgical beds available in St Albans there for inpatient surgery will continue on that site.

Kevin Miner also asked if the new Cancer center is eventually located in west Hertfordshire, would this affect the current plans. HB explains the discussion are in the early stages and these are classed differently therefore it wouldn't change the early part of the pathway which is diagnostic and consultations.

Cllr Allen asked how the committee would be kept informed of how these services are rolled out and delivered between now and 2025. HB confirmed they will be attending the Health Meeting regularly to give updates. There is an extensive programme of co-production and Members are urged to visit the website to look at the documents which list all the services and where they will be moving from and too. The documents are detailed and accessible to everyone, WHHT are also very happy to come and meet with group within the community, the contact details are on the website.

	<p>Cllr Guest does feel that retaining some of the current services and having some new specialities on the Hemel site is a positive, however the bulk of the funding will be spent on the Watford site, to rebuild buildings which are not fit for purpose, will there be sufficient funding the Hemel and St Albans sites.</p> <p>HB explains they need to focus of the future service model and allocate the funding as required, the Watford site is in the greatest need of investment, the final figures aren't know but the 80/20 split is still the target, the architects and design teams are still working on the different options. She is confident the current service model can be delivered.</p> <p>Cllr Guest requested West Herts Hospital trust Clinical Strategy be added as an item on a future meeting that is convenient.</p> <p>HB informed the committee that the document is on the website and she would encourage members to go online and feedback any views.</p> <p>Edie Glatter would like to know what Helen Brown is basing the 80/20 split between the sites on as it doesn't seem to fit in with the figures she has seen. HB apologised from not being more specific, the slit is based on funding spent again the Watford (80%) and Hemel and St Albans (20%) sites combined.</p>
7	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT</p> <p>The report was circulated to the committee.</p> <p>Cllr Guest would like it noted that she was unable to attend the meeting of the 18 December 2020, had she been able to attend she would have spoken and voted for the reconfiguration of the WHHT service to be called into the secretary of state because she believes they are a substantial change in services, she feels hospital services.</p> <p>Edie Glatter would like to know if there is a system whereby if you are unable to attend the meeting they can find a substitute to replace you. Cllr Guest explains there is such a system unfortunately the substitute was someone from the east of the county who doesn't understand the needs of the west of the county.</p> <p>Edie glatter notes this is unfortunate and agrees with Cllr Guests point, the trust speak of a transformational redesign of health and hospital services in west Hertfordshire, she feels this cannot be regarded in any other way other than a substantial development of services.</p> <p>Cllr Guest thinks Ron Glatter has done the right thing in written to Ian Mapley, she asks that it be forwarded onto the solicitor for the council Mark Brookes.</p> <p>Edie asked if it is possible for Cllr Guest to write in and make the feelings of Dacorum known. Cllr Guest agrees to do this.</p> <p>Kevin Minier explains to the committee that the topic group could make a request to the independent reconfiguration panel for informal advice, but on the day they chose not to. He would like this explored further. He felt that there was no due respect shown for the witnesses of the public at the topic group.</p>

	<p>Cllr Bhinder did attend the meeting, he felt it was shameful, decision have been made and he feels if this committee are going to continue to fight this they need to regroup and come up with a new strategy.</p> <p>Cllr Guest thinks this is something that DHAGG and the new hospital campaign need to look at outside of this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Bhinder would like to know if it is possible to invite representatives from DHAGG and the New Hospital campaign. Cllr Guests feels it may be better to look at inviting them at witnesses, she will look into this.</p> <p>Kevin Minier feels that every avenue of appeal has been dismissed, he doesn't feel the public have been listened to.</p> <p>Cllr Beauchamp would like to know if it is possible to submit a statement emphasising the committees' dissatisfaction with the report. Cllr Bhinder thinks this is a good idea.</p> <p>Cllr Guest thinks this is something that can be done in the form of a motion.</p> <p>The Motion:</p> <p>Health in Dacorum, with regard to the Herts CC scrutiny committee report would like it noted that we are unhappy with the lack of reference to the concerns of the people of Dacorum.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Beauchamp Seconded by Cllr Bhinder</p> <p>The vote was unanimous in favour of the motion.</p> <p>Cllr Allen would like to know if costed proposals have been looked at as an option. Cllr Guest explains they have been put forward, however they were dismissed by the trust because they were too expensive and could not be built within the required time frame.</p> <p>Cllr Allen notes that he was aware that initially it was about the time it would take to secure the land that was an issue and weather that was feasible to meet with the deadlines set by the ministry of health, however at that stage he was not aware of any properly costed analysis of the alternatives and he believes the county council audit committee was told it had been costed when it hadn't.</p> <p>Cllr Bhinder suggests this information is requested from County. Cllr Guest agrees, she will gather the information from county and share it with the committee.</p>
8	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL ADULT CARE SERVICES REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Guest shared the report with the committee.</p>
9	<p>WARD ISSUES</p>

	<p>Cllr Beauchamp feels he did not receive a clear explanation of the services that will be provided on the Hemel hospital site, as it sits within his ward he feels he needs further explanation. An email will be sent to request a full list of services.</p>
13	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update from Jim McManus if he is available.• WHHT update.• The integrated care system update
	<p>There being no further business the meeting ended at 21:45</p>