

Health in Dacorum Committee Report for 2016/17

The Committee looked at a wide range of issues across Dacorum.

When it was announced that the local NHS had decided against building a new hospital for West Hertfordshire on a greenfield site, the Committee held a special meeting on 7th November 2016 and questioned senior officers from West Herts. Hospitals Trust, Your Care, Your Future and the Hertfordshire Community Trust about the decision. The meeting was open to all Dacorum Borough Council members and both Committee members and non-members asked probing questions.

The Council Leader, Cllr Andrew Williams addressed the meeting, stating that this Council had always opposed the downgrading of Hemel Hempstead hospital. The provision of acute care in West Hertfordshire is a concern for the Borough Council so it will support the provision of acute services on a greenfield site and stick to the view that a new facility and not one on the Watford site is required.

For the first time, the Committee referred an item to full Council. In the referral, it put the motion to the Council "That Dacorum Borough Council shows its proactive support of maintaining a hospital presence in West Herts in general and Dacorum in particular in the most appropriate location to give the people of Dacorum the best possible care". The motion was passed.

The Health in Dacorum Committee looked at Get Set, Go Dacorum, a project funded by Sport England to encourage people to get involved in sport.

The Committee looked at health issues across Dacorum, not just in Hemel Hempstead. It considered the Markyate surgery, the closure of the Tring Clinic, the retirement of Dr Hall-Jones in Tring and the closure in the inpatient unit at Gossoms End.

It was brought to the Committee how in December 2017, the County Council was told suddenly and without warning that Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group would be withdrawing the £8.5 million that it had been giving to the County Council to help maintain adult social care at current levels.

At the time of writing, the Committee is looking at scrutinising the opening hours of the Hemel Hempstead Urgent Care Centre.

I would like to thank the Vice Chairman , the substitute on the County Health Scrutiny Committee, the representative on the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board and all the Committee members and other contributors for considering, scrutinising and supporting health services for the people of Dacorum

Cllr Fiona Guest, Chairman, Health in Dacorum Committee