

Public Statement for the Cabinet – 8 March 2017

Statement from Mr Lester Dibben, Shaftesbury and District Task Force Ltd, in relation to 'Response from Dorset County Council to the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group public consultation on the Clinical Services Review (CSR)' (agenda item 9)



Dear Cabinet Members;

Please take note of the consultant's report to the Shaftesbury & District Task Force and Town working group.

I am sure you are aware of the public outcry on the proposed closure of the Beds at The Westminster memorial Cottage/Community Hospital Shaftesbury. This action would put any proposals by the Dorset CCG in jeopardy.

We understand that those living in the or near the conurbations will benefit, but we ask that members recognise the major difficulties of those in far flung rural parishes in accessing the services, we also ask for support in lengthening the consultation to ensure those who missed it, especially those in South West Wiltshire who uses the service at Shaftesbury.

We would ask members to recognise that Parishes very often do not meet more than once every two months, this means they could have completely missed the consultation process, no parish or town has said it knew of the consultation in time to comment, this was compounded by the fact that the CCG admitted the appendix could not be found so an informed reply could not be made.

I also attended the Scrutiny meeting of the 23rd February to find no scrutiny, comments were made about our MP's contact with Mr Goodson, no one asked what the MP's had said, and when asked about access for rural North Dorset and South West Wiltshire the answer, 'some may have to travel two mile or perhaps more', was not questioned.

Please support those in Wiltshire who use Dorsets services by requesting lengthening the consultation process.

The Hospital in Shaftesbury sits in a 778 square mile rural area, no beds in this area is frankly nonsense.

Please support the request for a much improved scrutiny process that will ensure those living in rural areas will not be left as second class citizens.

Statement from Mr Lester Taylor, Resident of Shaftesbury, in relation to 'Response from Dorset County Council to the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group public consultation on the Clinical Services Review (CSR)' (agenda item 9)

The CCG CSR proposals and consultation are too urban-centric and omitted to consult nearly half the users of Shaftesbury hospital, so are fundamentally flawed. The Westminster Memorial Hospital in Shaftesbury is part of the fabric and heritage of the town and must continue to provide the same or improved essential medical services into the future with at least the current number of NHS medical beds. It must be retained as is, with a blue and white National Health Service sign outside, delivering services commissioned by the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group free at the point of use.