

## **Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee – 17 October 2018**

### **Public Participation**

#### **Agenda Item 7 - Report regarding the work of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Re: Clinical Services Review**

1. Councillor Ray Nowak, Chairman of Portland Town Council
2. Councillor Kate Wheller, Dorset County Councillor / Weymouth and Portland Borough Councillor
3. Councillor Colin Huckle, Weymouth and Portland Borough Councillor
4. Giovanna Lewis, Portland Resident
5. Claudia Sorin, Dorchester Resident
6. Maia Mackney, Swanage Resident
7. Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Resident
8. Chris Bradey, East Stoke Resident
9. Steve Clarke, Vice Chairman - Corfe Castle Parish Council
10. Barry Tempest, Dorchester Resident
11. Thelma Deacon, Swanage Resident
12. Richard Drax, MP for South Dorset

## 1. Councillor Ray Nowak, Chairman of Portland Town Council

Portland Town Council to request the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee to exercise their statutory duty to refer plans to reorganise NHS Health services provided to this area and other parts of the W&PBC for an Independent Review.

The PTC is aware that a Judicial Review has recently taken place and regardless of that the above powers still exist for the DHSC to request an independent review of the proposals.

Maternity Emergency and other time critical emergencies would under the current proposals to move some services to Bournemouth Hospital be affected by an additional off peak journey time by private vehicle of 20 + mins (Google Maps). Holiday traffic can also add to existing severe disruption even for blue light emergencies.

The published South West Ambulance Trust report, which is generally misleading in places with weighted averages put forward, also acknowledges how in an emergency the majority of child patients are currently transported by private car to A & E services at Poole. None of these currently or in future will benefit from the use of the assisted blue light passage.

Ambulance services to Portland are already severely stretched at times with recent waiting times creating concern. Other longer times for an ambulance arrival have also been reported potentially making the extra 20 mins journey time to Bournemouth even more time critical.

PTC has not seen nor had referred to it any evidence that the proposals will save lives indeed the opposite is a possible outcome for Portland,

Last year when the consultation closed and before the crucial DCCG decision meeting they published the public responses. For every other community hospital they put down the local area response.

However for Portland and Weymouth they grouped us with West Dorset and then claimed overall support.

They were challenged to produce figures for W+P at the time and they waited until they won their vote then confirmed the figures.

**It showed that W+P taken as a locality voted AGAINST the closures.**

*Thank you for contacting NHS Dorset CCG with your queries about Weymouth and Portland.*

*Page 83: figure 33 of the consultations findings report breaks the responses to the question down by area. I have attached this for you.*

*Page 84 3.94 also states 'For the open consultation questionnaire, there is some slight difference between responses from Weymouth (45% agree) versus Portland (37% agree) on the Weymouth and Portland proposal'*

*and 3.95 'While around half (48%) of respondents from the neighbouring locality of Mid Dorset agreed with the Weymouth and Portland locality proposals, only around two-fifths (42%) of Weymouth and Portland locality respondents agreed. By comparison, **more than half of respondents from Weymouth and Portland (53%) disagreed.**'*

[Involve@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Involve@dorsetccg.nhs.uk)

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

PTC is dismayed that the local opinion has been totally ignored and already the beds at Portland Hospital have been closed. We note that there was a qualification about the future of Portland Hospital, that it will be not closed .....before consultation with local people.

PTC asks that DHSC seeks assurance that medical and day services will continue on Portland and

**PTC formally requests that Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee should therefore refer these plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review.**

## **2. Councillor Kate Wheller (including submission by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)**

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council request the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee exercise their statutory duty to refer plans to reorganise NHS health services in this area for an independent review.

W&PBC at a full council meeting on Thursday 11th October debated a notice of motion asking for support from the Council to request an independent review of plans to reorganise health services within the Borough. The motion was approved, with two abstentions being from those councillors who represent the Borough on this committee. I am sure it is not necessary to do so but I would like to remind those two councillors that their colleagues overwhelmingly supported the motion, and looked to you to do likewise at this committee.

Others will state far more eloquently than I the risk to human life across the County from the reorganisation plans. You will have read the statistics which support the current plans, but you will also have read that they are based upon flawed data. And you will have read that the risks to human life are within acceptable parameters. Acceptable to whom? Not to the young man who loses his wife and unborn child. Not to the older person whose life is changed forever, or lost because treatment for a stroke was too late.

We have three large conurbations, Weymouth and Portland, Bournemouth and Poole. These areas are fed by inadequate rural roads and where the roads are better they are heavily congested. To reduce services in the West and in Purbeck is to sign a death warrant for its residents. Are you really prepared to do that, what if it is your child, your mother, your partner?

Please vote to refer the plans for independent review and do your utmost to preserve properly resourced services across the County providing equally good health care for all the residents of Dorset.

### **Weymouth & Portland Borough Council - 11 October 2018**

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**W&PBC formally requests that Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee should therefore refer these plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review.**

**3. Councillor Colin Huckle, Weymouth and Portland Borough  
Councillor - Weymouth West Ward**

Please can the Committee agree to refer the CCG plans to downgrade Poole A and E and close Poole Maternity to an Independent Review because of the known risks to residents.

**4. Giovanna Lewis, Portland Resident**

Last week, an 86 year old lady phoned me. She wanted to tell me about her husband. He had been nursed and cared for at Portland Hospital in the last months of his life. She praised the compassionate care he had received. This was consoling to her. She then cried as she told me how impossible it would have been to visit him every day in Weymouth. She has no car and is elderly. She thought of others on Portland who would now be denied this.

The past 3 months have seen the closure of community beds in 3 of Dorset's community hospitals:

August - 16 beds at Portland

September - 22 beds at Ferndown, and

October - 16 beds at Wareham

These closures have been rapid. The reason given, is that there are insufficient staff. Care Closer to Home aspires to alleviate the need for these beds - but it also needs staff. Last year the CCG said 670 more. They also said they had 230 vacancies around the County. That's 900 staff needed overall. We have been told by local District Nurses here in Weymouth and Portland that they are struggling to cope. This, at a time when beds are closing and their pressures will increase. So, where are the extra staff - how can they be found? And, why did the CCG not carry out the National Bed

Closure Test? With 245 acute hospital beds also planned to go, how can Care Closer to Home do its work?

With regard to emergency medical care, the people of Weymouth and Portland also need access to these within safe times. Poole is the Regional Trauma Unit for Dorset and specialist Maternity Unit for babies born under 32 weeks. Residents of Weymouth and Portland will need to use Poole's services too. Moving them to Bournemouth, where the roads are congested and it is harder to reach, will also create risk for us. How long will it take us to get there? How much damage will occur if we have to spend longer in ambulances or cars.

Both Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and Portland Town Council have passed Motions requesting that your Committee use your statutory power to refer these plans for independent Review. We are aware that other Councils have done this too. Many, many councillors from our local areas are all concerned about the CCG plans.

We continue to fight a hard battle to keep ourselves and our neighbours safe. We ask you to support us - to seek further interrogation of these plans. Plans, which continually do not make sense to us at all. Please refer the CCG's plans for Independent Review.

## **5. Claudia Sorin, Dorchester Resident**

In 2016 the Special Care Baby Unit at Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester was downgraded so that it no longer provides neonatal care. This means that all babies born at and mothers at risk of delivering before 32 weeks are sent to Poole Hospital. Poole Hospital provides the only Neonatal Care Unit in Dorset now and I believe that for the safety of mothers and babies this should remain at Poole. However the Dorset CCG proposals are to close Maternity and Emergency services at Poole and move them to Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Research undertaken for the CCG in 2015 states that:

*“Option evaluation for access to major emergency hospital (MEH) services rates MEH services provided at Poole Hospital higher than where MEH services are provided at Bournemouth. This is because a higher proportion of the whole Dorset's population is able to reach MEH services within 30 minutes and that the maximum travel time is 10 minutes less than the options where the MEH services are provided at Royal Bournemouth Hospital”*

I live in Dorchester and have been involved with the campaign to save children's and maternity services at Dorset County Hospital. Our group has been contacted by many parents telling of how time was a crucial factor in the safe delivery and subsequent care of their babies.

Medically vulnerable mothers with potential risk to life of both mother and baby could be facing journeys to RBH of 2 or 3 times the 'safe' guideline of 30-45 minutes travel time in maternity emergency.

We also conducted a travel survey with over 700 respondents which clearly showed how important it is for families to have care as near and as accessible as possible.

I understand that the Health Scrutiny Committee is considering referring the CCG's plans to downgrade Poole A&E and close Poole Maternity including the loss of the neo natal unit.

Please stand up for West and South Dorset residents by voting to refer the CCG's plans to the Secretary of State for review by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

## **6. Maia Mackney, Swanage Resident**

It was eight o'clock when my waters broke. I was reading my son his bed time story, 'The Snail and the Whale'. Appropriate for me at nearly two weeks overdue. I dutifully and calmly rang Dorchester hospital and they said 'come in when you have been having contractions less than every five minutes apart for an hour. Remember it is your second though so things can be a little speedier than with your first. Where do you live? Swanage? Don't leave it too late, come in soon'. Oh, how right they were.

What followed can only be described as a scene from a film. A really painful film playing on the fast forward button. At around nine o'clock I started getting painful contractions and by 9.30 we decided to leave for Dorchester. My husband drove calmly out of Swanage. By Corfe the speedometer was reading 70 mph. By Wareham the leather interior of our Honda had nail marks in it. 80 mph. By the Monkey World roundabout, an ape had climbed into the passenger seat. 90mph. On the road from Monkey World to Dorchester my daughter decided she wanted to have a little look at the world. To see if she liked it. 100 mph. The renegade ape sitting next to my husband was emitting a series of guttural noises along the lines of 'hurry the f\*\*\* up. I don't care if there is a red light'. I think there were a fair few 'I can feel the head's thrown in for good measure. On Dorchester High Street, every red light was sped through at 120 mph. This is no exaggeration, we fully expected him to lose his license. In between contractions I called in to explain and at 9.58 we swung into Dorchester Maternity Unit carpark to be greeted by 3 midwives, 2 doctors and a wheelchair. I couldn't sit on the wheelchair or the top of my daughter's head might have been squashed.

10.02 in the lift I asked for some drugs. They laughed. 10.04 I begged for some drugs. They rubbed my back and smiled. At 10.06 she was born.

Somewhere between 10.04 and 10.06, Bella had shoulder dystocia. Her shoulder was stuck with her head out. Somewhere between 10.04 and 10.06 we received expert and speedy care from a team of excellent NHS midwives and doctors to manoeuvre her out. At 10.07 we heard the wonderful sound of her crying loudly from the other side of the room.

To put the severity of the situation into context. If my husband hadn't driven at 120 mph, if the hospital had been further away, if funding cuts had happened

sooner and Dorchester Maternity were to have been closed, my husband would have been put in the situation to attempt to successfully deliver her in the back of our car on a lay by on the way to the other side of Bournemouth. This would not have been successful, I am sure. She would have been stuck, in distress, on a lay by half way to Bournemouth and the result just doesn't bear thinking about. This campaign is so very important to our town, which is so very pretty but so cut off from expert medical care.

My story shows how difficult it is to get to from Swanage to Dorchester, let alone Bournemouth, in an unforeseen maternity emergency. I implore you to refer the plans to downgrade Poole A&E, and to move Poole Maternity and Specialist Neo Natal Care Unit to Bournemouth, out of reach of most Dorset mums-to-be, for Independent Review

## **7. Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Resident**

The Ambulance Trust Report shows that, over the 4 months January to April last year, 132 of the patients who attended Poole Hospital by ambulance would have been at risk of harm if Poole A&E and Maternity was not there. This scales up to 396 patients at risk each year.

Yet Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group claims that there is 'Minimal, or no, clinical risk'.

To quote a Dorset A&E Dr who cannot be named for fear of repercussions: "Questions are not being asked appropriately, because the CCG are so fixed on their ultimate destination. The CCG needs to listen to the concerns of A&E clinicians, SWAST and patient groups, and address these issues.

If Poole A&E becomes an Urgent Care Centre, the CCG suggest that for Purbeck patients, 19 minutes will be added onto the journey time to get to Bournemouth Hospital for major treatment, and it will be 8 minutes longer to Dorset County, which will not have Major Emergency Hospital services. Even 8 minutes is a long time for a critically ill patient and, quite simply, means the difference between life and death.

There are a range of conditions that can't be treated in the ambulance where time to hospital is critical, as the patient could die at any moment. It can't be argued with any honesty that in these cases longer journey time to access treatment is irrelevant. The Ambulance Trust Report corroborates this, and identifies many patients whereby longer transfer time could have led to patient deaths or disability.

While those arriving at a better resourced facility may do better, this does not address the issue of those who die en route, or for whom treatment has come too late to avoid permanent disability. This is an argument for improving services at existing hospitals, not for closing A&E & Maternity Departments."

The A&E Dr assessed that, of the 132 at risk of harm over 4 months, for 61 any longer journey time would be likely to prove fatal. This scales up to 183 residents likely to die each year; that's one person every other day.



The figures of 396 at risk, and 183 likely to die, only quantify the risk to those arriving at Poole by ambulance, which excludes most child, and a significant minority of adult emergencies. Also, of the 590 maternity emergencies treated at Poole last year, 80% of these mums did not arrive by ambulance, & 251 of their newborn babies needed intensive or high dependency care.

The CCG has not addressed the issue of clinical risk. We rely on this Committee to stand up for residents lives. Please can the Committee refer these dangerous plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review?

## **8. Chris Bradey, East Stoke Resident**

This is a crucial time for members of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee to stand up for residents.

The recent Judicial Review revealed that the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group plans to downgrade Poole A&E and close Poole Maternity will put at least 400 people a year at increased clinical risk.

The CCG also plan to close 245 acute Hospital beds and Community Hospitals or beds at Wareham, Portland, Ferndown, Westhaven and Alderney.

These plans will not improve health services for Dorset County Council residents. Indeed, they will put many Dorset County residents at clinical risk.

Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee has therefore a statutory duty to refer these plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review.

The Chair of Dorset Health Scrutiny must carry out his statutory duty to protect resident's lives and health services.

I understand that a vice Chair of the same political party as Councillor Pipe in all likelihood will be appointed vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

I urge that Councillors ensure proper scrutiny through the appointment of an opposition Councillor as vice Chair of the Committee.

I urge the Committee to refer the Clinical Commissioning Group proposals with a recorded vote: it is Councillors' statutory and moral duty to do so: the consequences of Councillors not doing so will surely haunt them.

*Please note that parts of Mr Brady's intended statement have not been published by the Council as it is thought to be derogatory and potentially defamatory.*

## **9. Steve Clarke, Vice Chair - Corfe Castle Parish Council**

We presented to the Task and Finish Group our analysis of the fundamental flaws in the CCG proposals, all based on the information in the CCG documents. These were:

- the additional travelling times beyond safe limits,

- the reduction of 800 commissioned beds against the CCG's own forecast of need
- the hopelessly unrealistic community health strategy which was intended to achieve that reduction
- and finally the closure of community hospitals with their replacement beds in large and distant institutions.

We look forward to hearing how the Committee has responded to these concerns and the judgements they have reached on them.

In the year that we have been discussing this, the Committee will want to assess whether events have strengthened the case for the proposed changes, or not.

These events include:

- 1 the new announcement of an additional £20 billion for the NHS whereas these proposals were framed in the context of a similar level of shortfall. This must change the assumptions on which the CCG plan is based
- 2 the increasing demand for A and E with both Poole and Bournemouth abandoning planned work to meet emergency demands last winter: we simply don't have enough beds in the system.
- 3 the record levels of vacancies in the NHS with a real crisis in community health and GP recruitment.
- 4 worsening forecasts for local government complementary services such as Adult Social Care with several councils now going under financially. Last week the Care Quality Commission annual report said the NHS would not succeed without more resourcing for Adult Social Care

The closure of the A and E at Poole and the loss of 477 beds there would be a mistake of historical proportions for Dorset. The CCG plan would mean a major drop in the quality of A and E services across the County.

All we are asking is that the CCG proposals are subject to the review mechanisms which legislation provides for so that the Independent Review Panel can report to the Secretary of State. An accountable Minister and not an unelected CCG, would make the final decision. We ask you to refer the CCG proposals.

## **10. Barry Tempest, Dorchester Resident**

The Judge at the Judicial Review of Dorset CCG's planning and consultation ruled, surprisingly in view of his concluding comments at the hearing, that the CCG had, however narrowly, fulfilled its minimum legal obligations.

"It was the Judge's duty to rule on legality. It was not his duty to decide on the fitness of the CCG's proposals for the well-being of NHS patients throughout Dorset.

"That latter responsibility rests with you, the DCC Health scrutiny Committee. "In view of the serious and well-grounded misgivings of which members of this Committee must be fully aware, will you please now reconsider your earlier rather troubling decision, and refer the CCG's proposals to the Minister for further review of their clinical fitness for purpose."

**11. Thelma Deacon,**

Life Changing Risks

When the CCG have been asked about NHS staff recruitment no evidence has been provided to support the radical changes that are being proposed. If closures to beds and an A&E department happen, where will the staff go? They may be expected to move to another area of expertise and would have to travel further. An opportunity for some to simply say they have had enough, and the number of staff redundancies is guess work.

One of the biggest concerns is travel times to A&E and that Steer Davies Gleave (the CCG consultants) guidelines stated that it would take 30-45 minutes in acute stroke, major trauma and maternity emergencies, however SWAST say guideline times for Swanage and villages are 57 minutes blue light to Bournemouth Hospital and 48 mins to Dorset County Hospital which are always outside these guidelines and that Langton Parishes FOI to SWAST showed that, over the period Nov 2016 to Dec 2017, the average time from all BH19 postcodes between SWAST receiving a category 1 (imminent danger of death) call and the patient arriving at Poole A&E was 1 hour 43 minutes - it is criminally negligent to take steps to make it harder for us to access hospital treatment in an emergency!

Defend Dorset NHS can confirm that Purbeck District Council, Swanage Town Council, Corfe Parish Council, Worth Parish Council, Langton Parish Council, Portland Town Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council are all supporting us for referral.

Please refer these plans for Independent Review.