

Question/Statement from Barry Tempest

We live in an area of rapidly increasing population with a hospital (Dorset County Hospital) whose A & E facility, little more than 20 years old, is already operating at 200% planned capacity.

DCH has some plans for expansion, but no funding except for car-parking. All current local hospital capital funding is directed to restructuring in the eastern conurbation, one identified side-effect of which is a likely increase in demand for A & E, Maternity, and Paediatric services at DCH, notably from the Purbeck area.

Without expansion, not only will local health services suffer directly, but DCH, a comparatively small hospital, will inevitably struggle to recruit and retain appropriately qualified medical and support staff.

What plans does this committee have, in conjunction with the CCG, to pressure Government for a swift allocation of funds to SCH for expansion of A & E, Acute Care, Maternity, and Paediatrics?

If there are no such plans, can I have your assurance that there soon will be, since the matter is now urgent if not already overdue?

Response From DCH

*The Clinical Service Review (CSR) set out that Dorset County Hospital (DCH) will continue to be an emergency and planned hospital for its communities and Dorset CCG is committed to working with DCH to ensure that it has the right level of investment now and in the future to continue to provide high quality services. DCH is developing its long-term plans to expand its Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit as well as establish an Integrated Care Hub as part of a long-term project to deliver the recommendations of the CSR. The CCG is clear that investment into the ED, ICU and Hub at DCH is one of the top priorities for capital investment in Dorset. DCH is working to secure a share of the Health Infrastructure Plan funding announced by the Government in late 2019 and the CCG is clear that any funding secured for Dorset will be prioritised for the long-term project to expand the DCH ED, ICU and Hub. Delivery of a new car-park, currently being considered for planning permission, will create the space to develop the new ED, ICU and Hub. In the meantime DCH continues to develop short and medium term solutions to alleviate the pressures being faced by the Emergency Department.*