

Request by a Councillor for a Review by an Overview or Scrutiny Committee

Subject for Review:

The operation post pandemic of Dorset MIUs

Reason for request (*Please see note 1*):

All MIUs in Dorset have ceased operation as walk in treatment centres. MIUs are supposed to relieve the pressure on A&E departments but their present working as an appointment only service through NHS 111 negates the reason why they were established. People attend A&E or MIUs because the nature of their illness / injury needs immediate assessment and not a booked appointment with a GP.

Evidence (*Please see note 2*):

Direct personal experience last month of being told by NHS 111 to take a patient from Sherborne to Weymouth to attend the MIU there – a 45 minute car journey when I live less than a quarter of a mile from the unit in the Yeatman. This resulted in me taking the patient to the A&E department in Yeovil.

Searching for Dorset MIUs I came across a paper prepared by the CCG in 2015 which contains the following statement:

This specification sets out NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group's commissioning requirements for all of the Minor Injury Units operating in Dorset.

The overarching aims are as follows:

- To contribute to reducing waiting times in Emergency Departments (ED) by preventing the need for patients to access ED with minor injuries. Diverting minor injury patients away from ED freeing up capacity in the department to treat urgent patients.
- To provide the local community with access to a service that can provide a high quality, clinically effective, value for money service for those patients who have suffered a minor injury.

The present arrangements clearly aren't meeting that test. The local community needs a local facility to serve it. A&E departments are not being served either as people divert to them for urgent assessment and treatment. Both the NHS 111 phone service and its online counterpart are dysfunctional with long waits in the former and a lengthy series of multi-choice questions leading to an unsatisfactory appointment in the latter.

Desired Outcome (*Please see note 3*):

The return of a walk in MIU service across the whole of Dorset

Name(s) Robin Legg
Signature(s)
Date: 5 October 2021

Note 1 – Reason to review

- Why should the topic be reviewed?
- How does it link to the Council's priorities
- What are the benefits of the review?

Note 2 – Evidence

- What evidence is there to suggest a review is necessary i.e. public concerns/media coverage/poorly performing service
- What are the facts?
- Has the topic been looked at before? Why was that not successful?

Note 3 Desired outcome

- What would you wish the outcome of the inquiry to be?

Note 4 – Submission of the form

- Submit the form to Democratic Services (democraticservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) who will place the matter on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee.
- Members of the Committee will give consideration to including the review in their Forward Plan having regard to the Council's priorities, resources available and the importance and impact of the Review.
- You may wish to be present during the committee meeting to make a personal representation.
- You will be notified of the Committee's decision within 5 working days of the date of the Committee meeting.

If you need any further assistance in completing the form please contact democraticservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received:
Date Acknowledged:
Committee Date:

Decision: Reject / Reserve (select)
Date (decision notified):
By (print name):

Review Checklist

Topics <u>are</u> suitable for review when:	Topics <u>are not</u> suitable for review when:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview or Scrutiny could have an impact and add value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue is already being addressed elsewhere and change is imminent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic is of high local importance and reflects the concerns of local people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resources are available that would be required to conduct the review, in terms of manpower and budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview or Scrutiny involvement would have limited or no impact upon outcomes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It avoids work duplication elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue is one that the Committee can realistically influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue is related to an area where the Council, or one of its partners is not performing well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue is relevant to all or large parts of the local area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review would be in the Council's interests 	

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