

## VITAL TRANSFORMATION OF ACUTE CARE SERVICES MOVES CLOSER

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM ON FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

**Vital plans to transform acute hospital services, which will help to improve health and care outcomes for communities across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales, are progressing.**

This follows formal confirmation of the approval, subject to a number of conditions, of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) of the Hospitals Transformation Programme at the end of August 2022 by the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England's Joint Investment Committee.

The SOC sets out plans to progress the implementation of the reconfiguration of acute services agreed as part of the Future Fit public consultation, which will see the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford specialise in planned care and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital specialise in emergency care.

This new model of care was designed, led and supported by clinicians, and will see patients benefit from fewer cancellations and delays for planned procedures and a more streamlined and effective emergency care service, with fewer ambulance handover delays, delivered from a dedicated, modern Emergency Department.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust which runs both acute hospitals, said: "The Hospitals Transformation Programme aims to improve both the quality of patient care and the sustainability of the services that we provide to our communities.

"We simply cannot continue with the current service configuration because it will not be able to meet the future needs of our population and gives rise to significant workforce issues.

"Approval of the SOC has enabled us to take a major and exciting step forward and we are already working on the next stage, involving the development of an Outline Business Case which will set out the future plans in more detail."

Simon Whitehouse, Chief Executive Officer for NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, said: "The Hospitals Transformation Programme is a key part of our overarching plans to transform health and care services across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales. We remain committed to achieving the ambitions of the Future Fit consultation so that we can improve quality, safety, experience and outcomes for local people.

"The £10million of funding announced recently to create an elective surgical hub at the Princess Royal Hospital is also fantastic news. This development fully aligns with the Hospitals Transformation Programme."

The Outline Business Case (OBC) will review each of the options set out in the SOC in more detail. There will be opportunities for the local population, staff and stakeholders to get involved in shaping the detailed models of care. This OBC stage is expected to be completed in around 12 months.

*A summary of the SOC and a Q&A, along with a full version of the SOC, will be available from 11am on Friday 23 September, by clicking [here](#).*

**-Ends-**

**For more information please contact:**

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**Notes to editors:**

**An overview of the Hospitals Transformation Programme (HTP)**

**Excellent Planned Care Services**

HTP will create a dedicated site for planned care at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, which will bring direct benefits for patients including:

- Fewer cancellations and delays for operations
- Shorter waiting times for cancer care
- Better patient experience

**Streamlined and Effective Emergency Services**

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site will specialise in emergency care, benefitting patients through immediate access to medical and surgical specialist teams based at the same location.

Creating one dedicated Emergency Department for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin will help to ensure that:

- Patients are seen more quickly by the most appropriate specialist teams
- Patients experience more rapid diagnosis and shorter hospital stays
- Improved patient flow, with shorter patient waiting times, and faster ambulance handover times

## **24/7 Urgent Care Services**

Both the Telford and Shrewsbury sites will provide 24-hour urgent care services, providing improved access for the assessment and treatment of a wide range of illness and injuries.

Telford will benefit from a new enhanced urgent care service, an A&E Local model, staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of health, care and community professionals. This is a significant enhancement of urgent care services in Telford and means around two thirds of patients currently treated at Telford's A&E department will continue to receive the care they need at their most local hospital.

## **Women and Children's Services**

Women and Children's inpatient services will be based in Shrewsbury ensuring higher risk maternity cases and children admitted under the care of specialist paediatricians, have immediate access to on-site medical and surgical specialists and other experts at the emergency site.

Both hospital sites will provide a range of assessment and maternity outpatient and scanning services, along with midwife-led birthing units for low risk births. This means that the majority of expectant mothers will continue to receive their antenatal and postnatal care at the site closest to home.

## **Wide range of services staying local**

In addition to urgent care services, both sites will provide a wide range of common services including testing (diagnostics such as X-rays), outpatients appointments and day case chemotherapy.

The Joint Investment Committee's decision to approve the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) signalled a move to the next stage of creating the model of care which was recommended for implementation by the NHS Independent Reconfiguration Panel and supported by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in 2019, following a major public consultation (Future Fit). Work has begun on preparing an Outline Business Case, a more detailed appraisal of each of the options. The third and final stage of the process will be a Full Business Case.

## **About Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS)**

STW ICS is a partnership of NHS and local government organisations, alongside independent and voluntary sector groups, working closely to transform health and care services to deliver world class care which meet current and future needs of our rural and urban populations.

Our partners include Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation

Trust, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, West Midlands Ambulance Service Foundation Trust and numerous voluntary and community sector groups.

To find out more visit: [www.shropshiretelfordandwrekin.ics.nhs.uk](http://www.shropshiretelfordandwrekin.ics.nhs.uk)

### **About The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH)**

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust runs the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, and is the main provider of acute hospital care for almost 500,000 people from Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales. Patients come to us from Telford, Shrewsbury, Ludlow, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Whitchurch, Newtown and Welshpool in Powys.