

20 JANUARY 2022

6.

**Update on Proposals for Acute Urology Services at Walsall and
Wolverhampton**

Ward(s): All

Portfolios:

1. Aim

- 1.1 The aim of these proposals continues to be to ensure safer, and more responsive acute care provision to the residents of Walsall by transferring urological emergency and elective (inpatient) procedures from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's (WHT's) Manor Hospital to The Royal Wolverhampton's (RWT's) New Cross Hospital site, while increasing the number of low complexity urological day case procedures at Walsall.
- 1.2 Outpatient procedures and follow-up consultations will continue to be undertaken in Walsall.
- 1.3 The original proposal was to transfer emergency urological cases to RWT from December 2021, and then to transfer the elective (inpatient) procedures from April 2022. At the same time, the high volume, low complexity days cases would transfer from RWT to WHT. The service would operate as one merged service providing emergency on call care for urology patients, 24.7. These timescales were based on a number of assumptions, including:
 - Building work at RWT to facilitate the additional urological emergency and inpatients is completed by December 2021
 - The impact of the Covid pandemic on NHS elective and emergency services would start to recede by Winter 2021/22.
- 1.4 Supply chain difficulties and continuing staffing and patient care pressures caused by the pandemic in 2021 has resulted in delays to the building work at RWT and ongoing pressures to NHS services. The decision has taken by the two trusts to delay the transfer of services between Walsall and Wolverhampton until Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 financial year (April –June).
- 1.5 In the meantime, both trusts are continuing to work through the proposals, which have not been altered and it is intended that the joint on call arrangements will be able to commence in April 2022.

- 1.6 Emergency service provision at WHT continues to be monitored closely. The decision has been made to continue the employment of an additional locum consultant at WHT to support the existing workforce, providing some mitigation against the sustainability risk.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Committee are asked to NOTE the delay to the implementation of the proposals outlined in the Paper received by the Committee in July 2021.

8. Review

These proposals form part of WHT's Improvement Programme and reports monthly to the Improvement Programme Board, which in turn reports by exception to the trust's Board. The trust's Board meetings are open to the public and details of how to join are published on the trust's website at www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk

Following the implementation of the proposals a "Closure Report" will be completed. Both trusts will be happy to share the Report with Committee.

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