

PPI Sub-Committee Meeting Report- 14th December 2010

- Implementation of the Coalition Government Liberating the NHS White Paper:
 - The Health Bill will be scheduled in Parliament in January 2011
 - Worcestershire will definitely have 3 x GP Consortia based around Wyre Forest and Kidderminster, Redditch and Bromsgrove, and South Worcestershire with all GP Practices now agreeing to join one of them.
 - While the Worcestershire Consortia failed to be selected for the first wave of “pathfinders” of GP Commissioning, they hope to be selected for the second wave in January 2011.
 - Wyre Forest and Kidderminster Consortium are ahead of the other two in that they have already had elections to their Board and have a Constitution.
 - The Local Authorities will not get funds for their Health and Wellbeing Board until 2013/14.
 - As NHS Worcestershire tackle the target of achieving a 45% reduction in management costs 14 members of staff, including Paul Bates the Chief Executive and other Director level posts, have been accepted on the Mutually Agreed Release Scheme (MARS), which appears to be a sort of rapid redundancy scheme. All are from the corporate side, with no clinical applications being accepted.
- Transforming Community Services. A lot of NHS “process” is happening. The only comment I would offer is that the White Paper foresees that organisations such as Worcester Royal Hospital and the new Community and Mental Health Trusts should be Foundation Trusts before they can be commissioned by the GP Consortia from 2013 onwards; neither have achieved that yet.
- Personal Health Budgets. We had a briefing on this. I note that one of the main financial challenges is “*make much more creative use of paid staff and volunteers*”. We shall wait and see. More information can be seen at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Personalhealthbudgets/index.htm>
- Draft Dementia Strategy. Worcestershire has a rate of dementia 4% higher than the national average. Current estimates are 7,590 in the county which will increase to 10,262 by 2020. NHS Worcs and WCC are developing a joint strategy to tackle this challenge which includes increasing public awareness, investing in training of health and social care staff, supporting carers and families and prioritising care of dementia sufferers in their own homes. Their draft strategy is open for consultation at: <http://www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations/dementia-strategy.aspx>