

PPI Sub-Committee Meeting Report- 28th March 2011

- Out of Hours Service in Tenbury: Apparently Harmoni withdrew their Sunday Doctor's clinic at Tenbury Hospital without informing anyone, such as the hospital Matron. In fact they had subcontracted to ShropDoc who give Shropshire Out of Hours cover and Tenbury patients can see a doctor on both Saturday and Sunday at Bridgnorth Hospital.
- Work has started at last on the new GP surgery at the Kidderminster hospital site. I enquired/suggested whether the new building would have office space for VCS since trials elsewhere in the country had shown the very positive impacts of collocation and integration of services. The idea seemed very new to some. I referred them to the article in the Sunday Times, Review Section, page 7, dated 23 Jan 11, where the co-location of a GP surgery, Cottage Hospital and 5 charities (Age UK, Scope, Alzheimer's Society, Cruse and Hospice at Home) had had exceedingly positive results. It is a classic model of the "Big Society".
- There was much discussion of the emerging 3 x GP Commissioning Consortia, not least of their financial viability. Both the BMA and the Worcester Medical Council has recommended that the smallest critical mass would be in the region of 500,000 people. At the moment the three Consortia are jealously guarding their own localism, however the fact that they have already agreed to pool their Finance and Communications, as well as sharing the financial risk, would suggest that they may be too small to be totally independent. They have also already agreed that each will lead on the commissioning of county wide services in certain areas:
 - Wyre Forest and Kidderminster Consortia: Community Services
 - South Worcestershire Consortia: Acute Services.
 - Redditch and Bromsgrove Consortia: Mental Health.
- All three Consortia are now in the NHS Pathfinder programme of leading consortia nationally. They will become Sub-Committees of the NHS Worcestershire Board and from April 2011 will become increasingly involved in commissioning decisions.
- As PCTs shrink in size from natural wastage and early retirements they still have statutory responsibilities until their closure in March 2013. Accordingly, they are being grouped in "clusters" and NHS Worcestershire is now part of the West Mercia Cluster with Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire PCTs. Eamonn Kelly, CEO of NHS Worcestershire, has become the CEO of this Cluster and will be the Accountable Officer for all 4.
- The role of the Local Authority in Health and Social care will grow. In particular, WCC are required to set up a new Health and Wellbeing Board from April which will operate in shadow form for 12 months. Additionally WCC is required to set up a new HealthWatch, which will have representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Although Healthwatch is not exactly the same, it is expected that the

current LINKs will "morph" into this. The lead on this is Dr Richard Harling, Director of Public Health, at WCC.

- It is expected that the current Patient and Public Involvement Sub-Committee will continue to exist as long as the PCT, i.e. until March 2013.
- The creation of the new Worcestershire Health and Care Trust is moving apace. Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust will take over some parts of the current Provider Services, such as the operating theatres at Evesham and Tenbury Hospitals in April 2011.
- There was some discussions about the need for the new Health and Care Trust and the Worcester Acute Hospitals Trust to prove their financial viability by April 2013 to achieve Foundation Trust status; if they do not they will have to be taken over another Foundation Trusts, which will obviously be from outside the county. I gave a health warning that if they decided to close services to balance their books in the hope that VCS will take up the burden, they might be in for a very nasty surprise since all charities are finding fundraising hard and will not be able to takeover services without statutory funds.
- The Worcestershire Carers Day will be at St Richards Hospice on Monday 13th June 2011.

Have a thought for all the hardworking staff in NHS Worcestershire are implementing radical structural change in the NHS at the same as they are worried about their own future employment. An uncomfortable position to be in.