

Question and Response for Health and Wellbeing Board 26.09.24

Question

The Castle Practice has seen an 83% increase in the number of registered patients over the last 15 years, 70% of which has been in the last 5-6 years. There have been 2,000 new homes built in the last 8 years, building continues, and planning consultations have started for an additional 2,720 homes in Ludgershall which straddle both county borders of Wiltshire and Test Valley (whilst still being built in and affecting Ludgershall residents). Healthcare provision has had a cursory mention in the local development plans for the future, The Castle Practice has *not* been consulted with as part of *any* plans in the past, local practices have *not* benefitted from any Section 106 planning obligations or CIL funds in the past, whilst this has started to happen in other areas across the country.

The providers of the local service i.e. The Castle Practice *is* willing *and able* to work with the Council and ICS to develop a sustainable plan for the future - how can we ensure that this happens to deliver a fit for purpose primary care service for our local population?

Response

Wiltshire Council have worked constructively and on an ongoing basis with the Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), and NHS Property Services throughout the production of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. This has been through regular and ongoing dialogue, and formal consultations. Evidence from the ICB about healthcare capacity across Wiltshire has informed the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, which then informed the selection of sites proposed to be allocated in the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal can be found on the [Council's website](#) together with other documents that were consulted on in Autumn 2023.

The draft Local Plan proposes the allocation of land at Ludgershall – Land South east of Empress Way – for the development of approximately 1,220 dwellings, 0.7ha of employment land, two 0.3ha sites for two 80 place early and years nurseries, and a local centre. Recognising that healthcare capacity and funding is a critical consideration when allocating land for growth, the allocation policy for Land South east of Empress Way (Policy 40 of the Local Plan) includes a requirement for “financial contributions towards early years, primary and secondary education school places and healthcare provision”. This policy requirement will need to be addressed by the developer and ensures that through the planning application process appropriate contributions will be made towards the local healthcare provision that would be required by this development. In addition, Policy 5 of the draft Local Plan sets out how infrastructure required to support new development will be secured.

Proposals for growth within the adjoining Test Valley borough are being led by Test Valley Borough Council, and this may include further allocations adjoining Ludgershall. Like Wiltshire Council, Test Valley Borough Council are obliged to consider the impacts of growth on local healthcare capacity through their own site selection process and to ensure that local healthcare capacity is, or can be made, available to support the level of growth proposed.

The ICB are also working closely with Test Valley Borough Council in response to various ongoing planning consultations, the local plan 2040 and National Planning Policy which all articulates the NHS infrastructure needed to support the population from the housing growth.

Castle practice in Ludgershall is surrounded by the Ludgershall strategic housing growth that is within Hampshire, all those patients will use the closest GP practice, the Castle Practice, unlike the GP practice in Andover 8 miles away. The ICB have made significant progress in developing relationships with Test Valley over the last few years and Test Valley now are more aligned in their understanding of the NHS infrastructure need and the level of flexibility which aligns to the evolving delivery model.

Test Valley Borough Council are developing a better understanding to support NHS infrastructure contribution request as part of all housing growth when challenged by developers and are also ensuring that a level of flexibility exists because the infrastructure does not always come in the form of a new build or extension.

Each planning application that comes forward off the local plans will continue to be responded to by the ICB on behalf of Primary Care. The response will be supported by the output of the Primary Care Network (PCN) estates planning toolkit documents. These documents are continuously evolving and will continue articulating how care will be delivered to its' population and their estate solution that's needed to support this. The PCN Toolkit uses the SHAPE Atlas which draws on the ONS and Savills housing growth data from local authorities together with market intelligence on the population that will live in newly built homes, therefore this helps to inform strategic planning of investment in health provision.

On 25 July, NHS BSW ICB held a primary care webinar, with all practices invited, in order to share the outputs of the PCN estates planning toolkit and plans for all priority schemes. Since then, direct engagement continues with respective PCNs to outline the actions needed to move specific projects forward and the ICB will be engaging further to finish outputs from the toolkit and undertake work on prioritisation. An update on this development will be shared by the ICB at the November Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.