

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

11 January 2022

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors

Question from: Chris Caswill FAcSS

To Councillor :

Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing /

Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, Leisure, Libraries, FM, Operational Assets and Broadband

Statement

The papers for this Cabinet meeting include the Minutes of the previous meeting, at which the Cabinet received and supported proposals for the Integrated Care System which is going to replace the current management and funding of local NHS provision. The Minutes record that you asserted that the new organisation would 'ensure clarity in decision making structures and increase local accountability'. It appears also that the main Opposition party is also fully in support of yet another reorganisation. I doubt if the public cares one way or another about reorganisations and all the management consultant speak that accompanies them, except to be healthily sceptical about all of it. As I have tried to say before, it is clear that Wiltshire residents care most about good access to and support from their GP practice and about good and early access to secondary NHS hospital services when needed.

Question 1 (22-018)

Bearing in mind your confidence about clear decision making and good local accountability, can you explain, in terms that will be understandable to the interested public, how decisions will be made in future on (a) priorities for and allocation of resources to local GP practices and (b) how the changes will affect the provision of services in the three NHS hospitals that Wiltshire residents normally use? And how they will be able to know, understand and if needs be challenge those changes and decisions?

Response

Priorities for and allocation of resources to local GP practices will be the responsibility of the Bath and NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Integrated Care System (ICS) NHS Board, where there is agreement for delegated commissioning of these services from NHS England (which is expected given current arrangements with BSW CCG).

The provision of services in the three NHS hospitals that Wiltshire residents normally use will be the responsibility of the same Board and any proposals for changes will be considered there, with the input of partners on the ICS Health and Care Partnership Board.

Residents will be able to know, understand and if needs be challenge those changes and decisions through publication of papers at those Boards, through public consultations where appropriate, through discussion of relevant items at the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board, through the work of Healthwatch Wiltshire in championing the patient and user voice and through the work of the Wiltshire Health Select Committee to scrutinise proposals and hold decision makers to account.