

Proposed changes in Poole hospital services

May 2016

Dear Poole Resident

Many thanks for your mail about possible changes to local hospitals. I would stress that the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group has been undertaking a careful assessment of all the options to improve the patient experience and outcomes and to sustain a higher level of investment in the local health economy.

The Dorset CCG has expressed that its preferred option is that Royal Bournemouth should be the main Accident and Emergency centre and that Poole should be classified as an Urgent Care Centre.

I should stress this would have to be approved by NHS England who will take advice from a Clinical Senate who are external to Dorset CCG and cover the Wessex Area. If they approve the proposals there will be full public consultation and the changes would only go ahead if the local Dorset CCG can secure the additional investment that they would need to reconfigure services.

The proposals come from a working party of local Accident and Emergency Consultants who are effectively trying to get the three Accident and Emergency Centres to work more closely together.

The vast majority of people who turn up to A&E in Poole do so under their own steam would still be treated in Poole, which will remain open 24/7 with networked Consultant support from across Dorset. If an ambulance currently collects a more seriously ill or injured patient, the first thing they do is stabilise the patient, then they decide which emergency centre they will attend, which will not necessarily be the closest hospital. So, as already happens today for example, someone with serious burns goes to Salisbury, someone with serious brain injury or trauma will go to Southampton, and seriously ill children also go to Southampton.

All the proposed changes mean is that the more severe accidents will go to the emergency team at Royal Bournemouth unless they require the more specialist treatments like I those refer to above. The reconfiguration will mean the outcomes for patients and chances of survival for accident victims in South East Dorset will be higher and when people have a severe accident they want the best treatment that the NHS can provide.

The reconfiguration of services will mean that services will move from Poole to Royal Bournemouth and from Royal Bournemouth to Poole. Poole will become the main centre for planned surgery and will still be a world class hospital. It is likely that a further £60 million will be invested in Poole Hospital to ensure this.

The point of the reforms is to improve the patient experience and improve health outcomes. The local health economy will work much more closely together than they do at the moment, which is what the National Health Service should be about.

The key issue is will this increased investment in the NHS in Dorset lead to better outcomes for my constituents. I believe it will as I think many of the local Consultants think that the new configuration will be an improvement.

Yours sincerely

Robert Syms MP