

Letter to Editor, Shropshire Star, published Thursday March 17th 2016

16th March 2016

Dear Sir

We would like to respond to the letter “Public Shoulders the Burden of NHS Cuts” from Councillor Pat McCarthy.

This mentions the recent NHS Future Fit Blog article about finding the balance between travel time access and clinical outcomes.

The example of “clot-busting drugs” quoted in Cllr McCarthy’s letter was merely used to illustrate the point that Paramedics are highly trained clinicians who are now able to assess and begin the treatment of a range of conditions at the home of a patient. It is a valid example, though a complex one.

Part of the rationale for what we are doing with NHS Future Fit is that we are implementing developments in healthcare and this is just one example among a whole range of interventions that could happen before patients get to hospital. There is a big trend towards this with Paramedics already intubating patients, inserting IV lines and commencing some drug therapies. The work Paramedics can do safely while patients are travelling into hospital continues to develop and our plans will evolve to reflect these developments.

NHS Future Fit is committed to delivering improvements in the quality of service and sustainability for patients from Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid Wales, and this is the sole basis for our plans.

Dr Stephen James

GP Member, Clinical Director of Information and Enhanced Technologies, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Mike Innes

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