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Ref: GW/ ORG/60

24<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Reply by email: [nhsfuturefit@nhs.net](mailto:nhsfuturefit@nhs.net)

Dear Sir,

### **NHS Future Fit CONSULTATION**

Ludlow Town Council's response to NHS Future Fit Consultation is as follows:

#### **FUTURE FIT CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The best option for emergency care for residents of Ludlow would be Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and we believe that the trauma care facilities are already good.

#### **FASTEST ROUT FOR EMERGENCY CARE**

Ludlow's position at the southern end of the rural county of Shropshire creates some transport concerns.

#### **ADEQUATE TRANSPORT LINKS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PLANNED CARE**

For planned care to be successful at Princess Royal Hospital, Telford specific consideration and planning for adequate public transport and community ambulance facilities would be needed.

#### **FIT FOR PURPOSE ORGANISATION**

It is impossible to reach a satisfactory understanding of the remit and interconnectivity of organisations that provide Shropshire's Health Care. The CCG, ShropCom and SATH seem to offer only a fragmented structure does not provide a cohesive or efficient way of delivering health care services.

#### **JOINED UP THINKING – DEMANDS AND RESOURCES FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTY**

Shropshire is a large rural county therefore different parts of the county may find alternative solutions outside the county, and there are also users of Shropshire health care facilities from outside the county.

- In the south west, there is a natural connection to Herefordshire Health services.
- Shrewsbury Hospital is used by Welsh residents.
- Serious injuries are treated in Staffs and Birmingham

Flexibility within the system is required to enable use of health facilities in other counties. The town council believes that the driving force of Future Fit is saving money, but the driving force for successful health care provision needs to be fit for

purpose health care that addresses the needs, and is capable of meeting the developing needs of the residents of Shropshire and surrounding area.

### **LUDLOW HOSPITAL**

Ludlow needs a local hospital providing services that support the needs of the local community. Key concerns in Ludlow are an aging population, and issues of rurality including transport and distances travelled for all residents - young or old. The hospital should be able to provide a good range of services including minor injuries treatment, and diagnostic or monitoring tools such as scans, ultrasound and x-rays, and a full range of maternity services. The aim should be a good level of local self-sufficiency to curtail the need for travel as much as possible.

### **CARE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Proactive use of care in the community should be coupled with local knowledge and the ability to act efficiently and effectively. Anecdotal evidence from Sandwell hospital suggests that there are significant benefits to early intervention, good monitoring and treatment of those known to be vulnerable.

'An innovative idea to treat people earlier for illnesses like flu and chest infections has led to patients in one area avoiding 17,000 nights in hospital and the NHS saving £7 million to be reinvested back into patient care.

The iCares system in Sandwell in the West Midlands flags people with long-term conditions who are at high risk of hospital admission to a team of 100 staff who make sure they are seen as early as possible.

Previously, patients were coping at home until in many cases they needed to be admitted to hospital.' Shropshire Star Published: Aug 13, 2018

It seems clear from the newspaper article that to be successful schemes of this nature need to be adequately resourced.

Yours sincerely,

Gina Wilding  
Town Clerk