

Message received by email 11/9/18

On behalf of Shropshire Council please accept the comments below as our contribution to the Future Fit Consultation.

1. Shropshire Council's populations are spread across the county, most of whom live in our market towns and villages in very rural areas. Whichever of the options that is selected for the future configuration of acute hospital services, people living in these rural communities will experience long journeys.
2. Shropshire Council believes that the key issue in this consultation is the availability of safe and clinically effective treatment services to be available within the county.
3. Shropshire Council also wishes to see that appropriate mitigation arrangements are made to reduce the impact on those communities adversely affected by whichever option is chosen. We believe that the Future Fit consultation must also give particular consideration to the development of community health and social care services in order to reduce the need for hospital based in-patient and out-patient care. The current development of the "Care Closer to Home" programme led by Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group is a key component of ensuring that the County has safe, effective and sustainable health services within the County. As part of the development of local health services, greater use of telehealth care should be made in order to reduce the need for patients to travel to any of the County's hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Lee Chapman

Portfolio Holder

Adult Social Care, Health and Social Housing

Chair,

Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board