



Independent Reconfiguration Panel

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Sent via email to:
Lord Markham CBE
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care

4 December 2023

Dear Minister,

Re: The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's Hospitals Transformation Programme

I am writing following your request of 23 October 2023 to provide the formal advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in response to the concerns raised by Telford & Wrekin Council which were set out in a letter sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care dated 20 March 2023.

We have reviewed the formal advice given by the Panel in 2019 to the Secretary of State and the series of events that have occurred since then along with the latest version of the outline business case. Further evidence was also requested by the Panel from the NHS Trust, Telford & Wrekin Council and the other parties involved in the local integrated care system, including Powys Teaching Health Board in mid Wales whose residents will also be impacted by the proposal.

The Panel has considered this evidence very carefully and made a series of recommendations to you in the attached report to respond to Telford & Wrekin Council's concerns about the future of NHS services at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. These include recommendations about the needs of residents in mid Wales to access NHS services in England; the impact of the capital funding constraint; the enhanced urgent care service ('A&E Local' model); emergency ambulance capacity and transfers between the hospital sites; and changes to population demographics. The Panel has also made further recommendations about the Local Care Transformation Programme and travel and transport issues which were highlighted to us during the course of our evidence review.

Overall the Panel concludes that, subject to the recommendations outlined in our report, the Hospitals Transformation Programme (as described in the NHS Trust's outline business case) is the best way forward to improve acute hospital services for the whole population served in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and mid Wales. I can also confirm that the critical advice about the clinical model and location of services given by the Panel to the Secretary of State in 2019 remains the view of the Panel today.

I would like to put on record my gratitude to the Panel members, colleagues from the NHS Trust, the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board and Telford & Wrekin Council, along with the other parties involved, for their support in undertaking this review.

It is clear that NHS services in the local area are under great strain and therefore the Panel hopes to see the Hospitals Transformation Programme proceed with your support to improve the sustainability of the two hospitals and the quality of care for all.

Kind regards,

Professor Sir Norman Williams

Chair of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel