

Report to O and S from HOSC Meeting July, 13th 2021

The meeting information pack is available on the GCC website and the minutes of the meeting will be available soon. I would suggest that anyone interested in the details of the subjects raised look at the information available there. The meeting was long and very detailed – there is no way I can give a helpful overview of all the subjects presented and discussed on one A4 sheet!

The subjects covered included –

Public Health – Covid 19 Update Review of the Temporary Service Changes

Update on Fit for the Future Consultation Programme

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) Performance Report

One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System Report

GCCG Clinical Chair/Responsible Officer Report

I asked a number of questions about subjects of local interest which had been brought to my attention. Some questions were answered in the meeting and answers will be included in the minutes. Others will be answered in writing – I hope to receive answers soon.

I asked about staffing levels in the A and Es and whether staff and ambulance crews were aware of the acceptance criteria for patients at Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH) Emergency Department following the pandemic. It would appear that staffing levels are flexible depending on need. All surgical emergency patients are now taken straight to Gloucester. Staff are aware of acceptance criteria. I asked for data about average waiting times at A and E – this information is to follow. (There is a great deal of concern on social media about patients waiting for long periods in ambulances at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, GRH.)

Work is in progress to move the majority of emergency care to GRH and the majority of planned (elective) care to CGH. However some planned high risk surgical procedures will still be undertaken in Gloucester – I asked about the reasoning behind this.

The South West Ambulance service (SWAST) will give a presentation at the next HOSC meeting. A request was made that the presentation include an update on the number of Critical Incidents at GRH and the performance/outcomes for patients on reaching hospital.

The next HOSC meeting has been moved from its original date in September to a date in October so that the Hospital service can give a presentation about winter plans.