

Report to O and S from HOSC Meeting October, 12th 2021

(next formal HOSC meeting November 30th)

My impression was that this was a positive meeting. Thanks were expressed to all health care staff who are working under incredible pressure at the moment.

The meeting information pack and a recording of the meeting are available on the GCC website. Minutes of the meeting will be available as soon as they are produced. I would suggest that anyone interested in the details of the subjects raised look at the information available there.

There were two Scrutiny items.

A presentation was given by the **South West Ambulance Service** and councillors asked questions covering various areas of their work. Concerns were expressed regarding reports of problems with response times and the long waits ambulances sometimes experienced before staff were able to handover patients at hospital A and E departments. An emergency incident was declared a few months ago and questions were asked about its implications. Very full and detailed answers were given explaining the pressure the whole health care system is under at the moment and the measures and processes which are in place to mitigate problems.

There is no shortage of trained staff or drivers. The Fire Service has been working alongside ambulance staff. A recruitment drive is underway for 1st responders who can attend patients quickly. Volunteers have also been helping with tasks such as making tea. All praised the actions and kindness of the ambulance staff attending emergencies.

The Ambulance Service presentation and relevant questions can be found in the first section of the webinar. It lasts for 1 hour and 10 minutes. It is well worth watching.

Unfortunately there is no sound on the webinar for the next section which is a presentation of the **Gloucestershire NHS Urgent and Emergency Care Winter Sustainability Plan 2021 -22**. Sound returns towards the completion of my questions at 1 hour, 44 minutes. Hopefully the HOSC Minutes will be able to fill the gap.

In response to questions Trust members said that enquiries were always made into any serious incidents not only any involving serious harm, but also what was described as “near misses” which are also important to investigate. Both Cheltenham and Gloucester Accident and Emergency Departments were busy. There would not be enough staff to be able to cover a full opening of Cheltenham A and E overnight. It was necessary to have an innovative approach to patient care involving other health care specialties when appropriate.

Councillors expressed particular concerns about the present situation in Primary Care as residents had been in contact about problems when wanting to see GPs. There is a huge increased demand for this service and not enough GPs available. HOSC will now take a more detailed look at what is happening in Primary Care.

Other Topics covered as Information Reports and Updates – *(please see webinar for more details)*

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Estates Update – this includes information about some green innovations which the Trust are implementing such as solar panels and heat pumps.

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) Performance Report – this includes some information about investment in Mental Health.

One Gloucestershire Integrated Care System Report

GCCG Clinical Chair/Responsible Officer Report

There will be the annual informal meeting between Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust and HOSC on 28 October 2021.