

Scrutiny 12 December 2016. Questions for the CCG.

How does A&E liaise with orthopaedics or other departments at the RD&E or other hospitals?

Recently a victim of a car accident with a severely smashed femur, (requiring complete replacement) and severe bruising was seen in A&E on a Friday, sent home with nothing more than pain killers and rudimentary sling, to wait for the shoulder clinic the following Thursday. After a week of excruciating, intolerable pain, they were operated on the following day – one week after the accident. The Consultant remarked it was the worst case he had ever seen! This must have been apparent after the initial x-rays so why wasn't it referred for more urgent treatment? Why?

Having had a wrist fracture recently I congratulate A&E at the RD&E on their efficient treatment, but it appears for something which could not be stabilised immediately, requiring referral and surgery there was an unacceptable wait causing huge suffering.

You state that you aim to improve future care and services to ensure people have the maximum opportunity to retain their wellbeing and in independence, avoiding hospital admissions where possible and providing more care in people homes. It is apparent that at the moment this is inadequate.

How will the CCG address the issue of preventive medicine?

How much of the budget is devoted to education to maintain good health rather than treating ill health? What form does that take and which age groups are being targeted?

Are you working with local GP surgeries?

There is evidence that good quality nutrition not only prevents ill health, but after illness or surgery aids recovery times and outcomes.

What is the procurement policy for food served in our hospitals?

What is the daily budget per patient?

And what is the policy re refined sugar, refined carbohydrates, hydrogenated/trans fats and food additives in hospital food?

There is huge concern about antibiotic resistance in the future. In Belgium in the 1970's it was routine practice before prescribing, to test not only to see if an antibiotic was appropriate but for the appropriate antibiotic for that microbe.

There is at last, in the UK a suggestion that Pharmacies and GP surgeries should test to see if patients have a virus or a bacterial infection before prescribing antibiotics.

Will this be promoted throughout the CCG and when in future are we likely to have a quick test which will identify the appropriate antibiotic as well?

We face an unprecedented demand for health and social care over the next 4 years. What does it mean for our locality in terms of health provision and social care?

The proposals in "Your Future Care" propose radical reform. Turning proposals into practice will make many demands. How will the staff be practically and culturally prepared for the changes? What is the time scale?

How will health and social care be integrated?

Who commands the budget?

How will governance be organised so that there is clarity of direction and accountability? (NB recent experience of Tiverton Hospital).

Your Future Care proposes a new model of care in people's homes saving between £2.8m and £5.6m. How will that address the current shortfall of £85m?

It also proposes 3 interventions in an integrated model for the frail and elderly- comprehensive assessment; single point of access; rapid response. How will this work, and who will be responsible for implementation?

How will the needs for those with mental health issues be addressed?

Nurse education will now be costed as a normal HE course. Will the model of cross functioning involving both hospital and community commitment be seen as a suitable career, bearing in mind the upfront costs?

How many discharges from hospital are held up because the person's home is unsuitable?

How many discharges are held up because there is no care package available?

What is the value of the Healthwatch contract?

What is the total cost of the Health and Wellbeing board?

In advance of the meeting may we please have a diagram of the structure of the CCG and the NHS/Social Services care services?

What is the current state of the finances of the CCG and the Health Trusts operating in this part of Devon?