

West Midlands Clinical Senate Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Future Fit Programme- Stage 2 Clinical Assurance Review Panel Final Report

Some Questions and Answers

Who are the West Midlands Clinical Senate?

The Senate is a source of independent, strategic advice and guidance to NHS commissioners and other stakeholders to assist them to make the best decisions about healthcare for the populations they represent.

It brings together experienced clinical professionals from across the regional health and care system for the benefit of improved patient outcomes and population health.

Why has the Senate produced this report?

This was at the request of the Future Fit Programme to provide clinical assurance as part of NHS England Stage 2 assurance.

The Senate convened an independent clinical review panel to assess and confirm the clinical quality, safety and sustainability of the Future Fit Programme preferred models namely, options B, C1 and C2, for reconfiguring acute hospital services in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin (which also serves parts of Powys).

The panel was also asked to consider the final preferred models (options B, C1 and C2) prior to public consultation, and to make recommendations on whether to support the model(s), to the West Midlands Clinical Senate and thereafter to Future Fit programme Board and the sponsoring organisations Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group.

What were the key areas under consideration?

The panel was asked to pay particular attention to: clinical effectiveness; patient safety and management of risks; patient experience, including access to services and patient reported outcomes.

How has the panel assessed this?

The panel considered a large body of evidence provided by the NHS Future Fit Programme. The review took place over three days with one day allocated to visiting the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. During these visits they interviewed a range of staff and patients.

Who were the panel members?

The panel was chaired by Professor Adrian Williams from University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, and there were 17 other panel members, which included prominent regional health and care professionals and two patient representatives. More information about them is contained within the report.

What are the key conclusions?

We would invite people to read the report themselves. However the panel was of the view that *“a clear and compelling case for change was made, based on sound evidence presented to it on current performance, improvements seen in other regions by reconfiguration of services with multi-site Trusts, the potential long-term benefits, and alignment with national NHS strategy.”*

The Chair reported in his forward to the report that, *“we were impressed that something needs to be done and fast with no further delay for patients and staff,”* and that *“the status quo is unsustainable”*.

Have any recommendations been made?

Yes, there are 19 recommendations that will all help inform further work as the NHS Future Fit Programme progresses.

Where can I see a full copy of the report?

The full report can be found at <http://www.wmscnsenate.nhs.uk/clinical-senate/publications/west-midlands/current/stage-ii-assurance/>