

Task and Finish Group Request Form

Date: 15 September 20	Requested by: Health Scrutiny Committee
Chair: CC Peter Britcliffe	
Title: The future of hospital services in central Lancashire	

<p>Purpose of the task and finish group</p> <p>E.g. Key objectives Main issues to be covered Potential timescales Key stakeholders Evidence requirements?</p>	<p>The purpose of this task and finish group is to review the forthcoming proposals by the local NHS (Chorley and South Ribble and Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Groups, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) on the future of hospital services in central Lancashire arising from the Our Health Our Care programme. One aspect of the programme relates to the future of the Emergency Department at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital.</p> <p>The task and finish group would report its findings to the Health Scrutiny Committee as the power of referral to Secretary of State rests with the committee and not the proposed task and finish group.</p>
<p>Outcomes identified</p>	<p>Where a health scrutiny body has been consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider on a proposed substantial development or variation, it may report [refer the matter] to the Secretary of State in writing if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not satisfied with the adequacy of content of the consultation. • It is not satisfied that sufficient time has been allowed for consultation. [The referral power in the context of inadequate consultation only relates to the consultation with the local authority, and not consultation with other stakeholders.] • It considers that the proposal would not be in the interests of the health service in its area. • It has not been consulted, and it is not satisfied that the reasons given for not carrying out consultation are adequate. <p>Should the findings of the task and finish group be that the scrutiny function disagrees with the local NHS'</p>

proposals, then the two parties would need to demonstrate that attempts to reach agreement had been made. The final decision on the future of the Emergency Department at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital will rest with the local NHS.

A revised timeline on when the local NHS intends to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal and the date by which any response from the Health Scrutiny function is required by is awaited from the local NHS but is due imminently. Potential timescale if agreed is for the task and finish group to commence soon after the Internal Scrutiny Committee has met on 13 November 2020, with a findings report being presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee in February/March 2021.

NB: On 13 February 2020, Full Council resolved:

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- i. To oppose any closure or downgrading of Chorley and South Ribble Hospital A&E services and A&E services across the County of Lancashire without clear truly independent clinical justification and a thorough public consultation.
- ii. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health asking for them to commit to, and invest in, strengthening and enhancing all current A&E provision across Lancashire.
- iii. To write to the Chief Executive and Board of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust asking them to exhaust all possible avenues in evaluating and addressing the reasons why the A&E at Chorley & South Ribble Hospital is not deemed viable rather than simply propose to close the unit."