

Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26 April 2016

Electoral Division affected:
Chorley East; Chorley
North; Chorley Rural East;
Chorley Rural North;
Chorley Rural West; Chorley
South; Chorley West;
Leyland Central; Leyland
South West; Penwortham
North; Penwortham South;
Preston Central North;
Preston Central South;
Preston City; Preston East;
Preston North; Preston
North East; Preston North
West; Preston Rural;
Preston South East; Preston
West; South Ribble Rural
East; South Ribble Rural
West;

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust - Chorley A&E update

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

Wendy Broadley, Principal Overview & Scrutiny Officer, 07825 584684

wendy.broadley@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Karen Partington, Chief Executive of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust is attending the meeting to provide the Committee with the rationale for the decision to temporarily close the A&E Department at Chorley Hospital and explain what the new temporary arrangements will be (see Appendix A).

Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the decision of the Trust and determine next steps.

Background and Advice

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee was one of a number of stakeholders that was notified by the Trust that they were currently experiencing significant staffing pressures in their emergency departments.

Hospital emergency departments are staffed by a combination of consultants, middle grade doctors, and doctors in training.

It was explained that in recent months it had become increasingly difficult for the Trust to staff the rota at their emergency departments. This issue had arisen for a number of reasons: there is a national shortage of emergency medicine doctors; they hadn't been allocated enough doctors in training who help staff rotas; and the application of the national agency cap is affecting their ability to secure locums to fill gaps in the rota.

They had taken a number of actions to recruit a permanent workforce including continuous international and national recruitment activities, changing how their service works and adapting some job roles, to maintain services, and appointing some GPs to provide additional support to the emergency department.

In response to the current staffing pressures they had not applied the agency cap for emergency department doctors. However despite this they have not been able to secure the additional locum doctors they need. Their consultants have been working extra shifts to cover the middle grade doctor rota. However this isn't sustainable and this approach is beginning to affect their ability to cover the consultant rota.

Despite all of these efforts they have not been able to secure the number of staff they need to continue to safely staff the rotas.

They currently have just eight of the 14 doctors they need to staff the middle grade rotas.

The System Resilience Group, which includes the senior leadership and clinical leads of the hospital trust, commissioners, local authority, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and the North West Ambulance service, has met regularly to review the situation, assess risks and consider all the potential options for the future provision of services.

The group has assessed that it is not possible to staff the rotas after 18 April, and there are no other safe options for delivering care - so the emergency department at Chorley will be temporarily replaced by an urgent care service until the staffing crisis is resolved.

The urgent care service will be provided at the urgent care centre, at Chorley & South Ribble Hospital. The service will be provided by a combination of emergency department consultants, nurse practitioners, GPs, nurses and healthcare assistants.

The vast majority of people who currently attend the emergency department at Chorley have conditions that can be treated safely and appropriately by an urgent care service.

Historically major trauma patients, patients who need a specialist service, patients who need to be admitted to hospital for surgery, and children who need paediatric care are already taken directly to Royal Preston Hospital by ambulance or

transferred from Chorley after initial triage and treatment. Additionally from Monday 18 April 999 ambulances will take patients to Royal Preston Hospital or other nearest appropriate hospital rather than Chorley, and patients who attend Chorley themselves, but who need to be admitted, or need specialist services will be transferred to Preston for assessment.

The Urgent Care Centre will be open between 8am and 8pm. Outside these hours patients should phone 111 for advice or attend their nearest emergency department. From Monday 18 April, the Euxton GP out of hours service will also be based at the Urgent Care Centre to provide additional support.

The System Resilience Group will be reviewing the situation on a week by week basis, and they will continue their efforts to recruit all the staff they need and reinstate the emergency department service at Chorley as soon as they are able.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk implications in the report

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
n/a	n/a	n/a

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate