

TEIGNMOUTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TASK GROUP

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2024



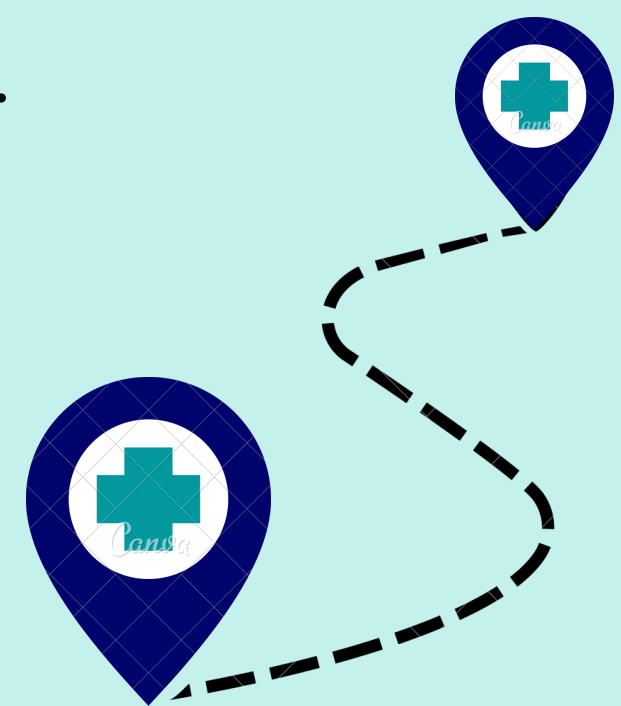
BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 21 March 2023, the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee resolved that:





“A Task Group...be established to gather evidence (in consultation with NHS Devon) in regard to a proposal to make a referral to the Secretary of State on the grounds that the proposal (from the NHS) to close the Community Hospital ‘would not be in the interests of the health service in the area’.

Proposals for modernising health and care services in Teignmouth and Dawlish

- A** Move the most frequently used community clinics from Teignmouth Community Hospital to the new Health and Wellbeing Centre (podiatry, physiotherapy, audiology and specialist ear, nose and throat services).
- B** Move specialist outpatient clinics, except ear nose and throat clinics, from Teignmouth Community Hospital to Dawlish Community Hospital, four miles away.
- C** Move day case procedures from Teignmouth Community Hospital to Dawlish Community Hospital.
- D** Continue with a model of community-based intermediate care, reversing the decision to establish 12 rehabilitation beds at Teignmouth Community Hospital.



Previous consideration and referral to the Secretary of State in 2021

-  • The Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee carried out a Spotlight Review on 14 December 2020 of the consultation process on the then Devon CCG’s proposals for Modernising Health and Care Services in the Dawlish and Teignmouth Areas.
-  • This resulted in a series of recommendations in January 2021, following which members agreed to make an informal approach to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) seeking its advice and views about the issues and concerns raised in regard to the proposals.
-  • The Committee referred the proposals to the Secretary of State in March 2021 on the grounds of the efficacy of the consultation. The Secretary of State referred this to the IRP for consideration in November 2021.
-  • On 17 March 2022 the Secretary of State responded advising that he had accepted the IRP advice in full ‘that the CCG did consult adequately with the Scrutiny Committee in terms of content and time allowed’. However, while agreeing with the CCG on adequacy and timing, the IRP made a number of recommendations where improvements can be made.

CONCERNS OF THE TASK GROUP IN 2023

As part of the report and in collating evidence for a referral to the Secretary of State, Members raised a number of concerns with the proposals:

- **GP Surgeries** - The Task Group raised concerns about the provision of local GP practices and the recruitment and retention of staff. Members were also concerned about the lease of the current GP surgery and that the new Health and Wellbeing Centre would not be built before the lease ends.
- **Evaluation of Options** - Members considered the options of building the new Health and Wellbeing centre against refurbishing the existing Hospital site against the criterion used by the NHS when evaluating the proposals and commented a variety of issues including space, sustainability, finance, transport and travel.
- **Sustainability** - The Task Group report raised that the local population grew by 5.5% between 2011 and 2021 and the older population (65+) of the local area grew by 25.8%.
- **Mental Health** - Members reiterated the concerns raised by the Clinical Senate in 2019 regarding the delivery of mental health services in the Health and Wellbeing Centre. The Task Group were concerned about the capacity of local services.
- **Use of the Teignmouth Community Hospital Site** - Recognising the local concerns around the future of the Hospital site, Members wanted to ensure the building was used for community purposes in the long term. The site is valued at approx. £1.2m and there is a maintenance backlog on the site estimated to be £3m. Members also raised concerns about the future of the Children's Centre, also located on the Hospital site.

INTERIM REPORT AND SITE VISITS

At its meeting on 13th June 2023, the Task Group presented an interim report to set out the history of the Committee's consideration of the issue and to set out a number of key questions which were sent to NHS Devon for comment.

NHS Devon responded to these questions in July 2023.

In August 2023, Members then visited the proposed Health and Wellbeing Centre site, Teignmouth Community Hospital and Dawlish Community Hospital with officers from Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

ENGAGING WITH THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

In both May and September 2023, Members met with representatives of the League of Friends of Teignmouth Community Hospital to understand their concerns and the concerns of local people with the proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At its meeting on 9th November 2023, the Committee agreed the Task Group report and 3 recommendations. This included taking steps to make a referral and asking the NHS to comment on the concerns raised by the Task Group.

The Task Group also recommended that Members supported the hospital site remaining in the community's use and asked the NHS to continue to engage with local stakeholders and local people to determine the long term use of the Hospital site.

RESPONSE FROM NHS DEVON



At its meeting on 24th January 2024, the Committee considered the response from NHS Devon to the 3 recommendations made.

NHS Devon provided information on the proposal and decision made in 2020, the financial sustainability and estimated costs of the project, the sustainability of primary care in Teignmouth, environmental sustainability, quality of the project, the Equality Impact Assessment and Travel sustainability. NHS Devon also provided Members with the original business case and the feasibility estimate of refurbishing the Hospital site.

It is estimated the Health and Wellbeing Centre would cost £14.5m (plus VAT) against an estimated cost of £23.3m to refurbish the Hospital site.

NHS Devon highlighted it was actively involved in the Teignmouth Hospital Stakeholder Group and is working with local people to explore options for the future of the Hospital site.

Officers from NHS Devon and local GPs attended the Committee to answer questions and provide more detail about the proposals from their perspective.

FINAL OUTCOME



**Department
of Health &
Social Care**

After debate and consideration at its meeting on the 24th January 2024, the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee voted against a proposal to refer the proposal to close Teignmouth Community Hospital to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The Members of the Task Group were: Councillors Martin Wrigley (Chair), David Cox, Alistair Dewhirst, Pru Maskell, Philip Sanders, Colin Slade.