



27th February 2015

Dear Colleague

re: Developing the Rural Urgent Care Offer

Following the decision of the NHS Future Fit Programme Board to develop a Rural Urgent Care Offer that is sensitive to local needs and which builds on existing local services, we are writing to keep you informed of progress.

We have agreed that this work needs to start with a series of conversations between the CCGs and Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and local GPs, other clinicians and patients. As a starting point, the localities are defined as the communities served by the existing Community Hospitals and/or Minor Injuries Units.

These conversations will start with a description of the current thinking of the core Urgent Care Centre (UCC) model and will then progress into a plan to develop local services appropriate to local need and demand, based on the principles of the core UCC model.

The aim is to come up with a plan for the development of the local Urgent Care Offer for each locality at the latest by September 2015. If, as the work progresses, it becomes obvious that we should do something now, we will do it.

This is important work for the future of healthcare services in Shropshire and beyond. We do need to make sure that this work is happening in a properly organised way and that we are able to take a view of the total offer across Shropshire as well as the view for each locality. We therefore need to make sure we organise this as a project with the necessary resources.

We have agreed an Executive lead from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust who will steer the overall project and we are looking to make sure that Executive lead can be properly supported. We are considering a more detailed plan in a week's time to agree how we can do this. We expect to be able to begin setting up the first of each of the locality meetings in the next few weeks.

Lastly we want to reassure you that our aim is to improve and extend local services not to diminish them.

Yours sincerely,

Caron Morton & David Evans
Joint Senior Responsible Officers
NHS Future Fit Programme

Jan Ditheridge
Chief Executive
Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust