

Statement read by Councillor Eric Payne at the Warwickshire PCT Board Meeting 30th January 2008.

We are grateful to the Chairman at the recent meeting with Alcester Town Council for confirming a new Hospital would be built on the hospital site with completion by the end of 2009.

In the short time that we have had the report giving the options for Alcester Hospital we have noticed it has been based on the Durrow Report and we believe, from our local knowledge, some of the information contained within it has been flawed,

1. The most critical is the population it serves or catchment area, this is in fact the whole of the Arden Area with a population of 41,100 not 20,000 as suggested in the report. This is borne out by the fact, in your engagement plan you are proposing to have 5 public meetings, 2 in Alcester and 1 each in Bidford, Studley and Henley in Arden. In the proposed Local Development Framework, as a main settlement the Arden Area is likely to have 1400 of the proposed 5,600 new residences, as part of the latest Government edict.
2. The recent Private Nursing Home information on a new facility. This was in fact opened in 2003 and is already full with no social care patient facility.
3. Palliative Care, which is currently provided, does not have alternatives provided in close proximity to Alcester.
4. The Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, is part of the Worcestershire PCT, is full to capacity, is not a complete unit e.g. there is no E & T. and has been under the threat of having services reduced for a number of years.
5. Stratford Hospital, 9 miles away according to the report, is our nearest Community Hospital and yet it does not take Alcester or Arden Area patients.
6. No mention is made of Joint Planning with Local Councils and we know from reports the Social Care Budget is severely stretched.
7. The report says the majority of patients live locally, where as the hospital actually has patients from all over the Arden Area as well as Redditch, Warwick and Worcestershire.