

IMPROVING CARE FOR EVERYONE – FASTER ACCESS TO BETTER CANCER SERVICES

14 DECEMBER 2022

A key element of plans to upgrade acute hospital services across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales will be to improve services for people needing treatment for cancer.

Every year, the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust carries out over 2000 operations for cancer. Any delay to these operations may affect success of treatment and recovery.

The dedicated planned care site in Telford will provide benefits for all residents, including:

- Cancer surgery that can take place all year round utilising dedicated theatres and wards, avoiding disruptions linked to high numbers of emergency admissions
- Shorter waiting times for cancer treatment, improving the long-term health prospects of our patients

Dr Steve McKew, Medical Director for Surgery, Anaesthetics and Cancer at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: “The earlier cancer is diagnosed and treated, the better a patient’s chances are of not only surviving, but also of living well after diagnosis and treatment.

“Whilst cancer operations are very rarely cancelled, the future plans will create an increase in the dedicated capacity for cancer services, both in the diagnostic and treatment phases of a patient’s journey.

“Long-term I believe we need to work differently to address these issues and to help patients get faster access to cancer treatment. By having our surgeons and cancer specialists working together in dedicated facilities, we can create a specialist cancer service that we are all proud of, and that provides a great environment for both patients and staff. Supported by chemotherapy services at both hospital sites, we can broaden the opportunities for people to begin and continue their treatment, helping them to maintain a better quality of life and increasing survival chances.

“As well as improving care for people with cancer, the new ways of working will support the wellbeing of our fantastic workforce and help us to attract and retain more of the specialist clinical staff we need.”

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For more information please contact:

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Notes for Editors

- **For more information on the Hospitals Transformation Programme (HTP), including a Q&A, visit - [Hospitals Transformation Programme - STWICS](#)**
- **The HTP will transform the delivery of acute hospital services across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales:**

Excellent Planned Care Services

The Princess Royal Hospital site will specialise in the delivery of planned care, ensuring that operations continue to be performed throughout the year, and bringing additional benefits for patients including:

- Fewer cancellations and delays for operations
- Shorter waiting times for cancer care
- Better patient experience

Streamlined and Effective Emergency Services

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site will specialise in emergency care, benefitting patients through immediate access to medical and surgical specialist teams based at the same location.

The creation of a new, purpose-built, right-sized Emergency Department for all our patients will help to ensure that:

- Patients are seen more quickly by the most appropriate specialist teams
- Patients experience more rapid diagnosis and shorter hospital stays
- Improved patient flow, with shorter patient waiting times, and faster ambulance handover times

24/7 Urgent Care Services

Both the Telford and Shrewsbury sites will provide 24-hour urgent care services, improving access for the assessment and treatment of a wide range of illness and injuries.

Telford will benefit from a new enhanced urgent care service, an A&E Local model, staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of health, care and community professionals. This will mean that around two thirds of patients currently treated at Telford's A&E department will continue to receive the care they need at their most local hospital.

Women and Children's Services

Women and Children's inpatient services will be based in Shrewsbury ensuring higher risk maternity cases and children admitted under the care of specialist paediatricians, have immediate access to on-site medical and surgical specialists and other experts.

Both hospital sites will provide a range of assessment and maternity outpatient and scanning services, along with midwife-led birthing units for low-risk births. This means that most expectant mothers will continue to receive their antenatal and postnatal care at the site closest to home.

To stay up to date with developments, please email sath.improvinghospitals@nhs.net with your name, address and email address to be added to our mailing list