



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2NS

14th December 2016

Dear Secretary of State

Future of Healthcare in Shropshire – NHS Future Fit

I have on previous occasions raised this issue with you. The NHS Future Fit process has lost all credibility and it is imperative that action is now taken.

On 12th December, a joint Shropshire CCG and Telford & Wrekin CCG board met publicly to decide on proposals for the future of healthcare in the area. The purpose of this meeting was to agree on the preferred proposal to be put out to public consultation.

The joint board was as expected unable to reach agreement.

The Telford CCG unanimously voted against the proposal to locate a new Emergency Department in Shropshire instead of Telford and against the closure of Telford's brand new Women and Children's unit.

Conversely, the Shropshire CCG voted in favour of this proposal. Accordingly the proposal could not go out to consultation. Instead it was referred back for 'more work.'

This process has gone on for over three years and has cost more than £3m. It has divided the community and it is clear that clinicians will reach no agreement.

Future Fit is overtime and over budget and manifestly is unable to deliver on its objectives. The programme has been beset by problems: it has struggled with staffing difficulties, experienced leadership and management problems. Poor communication by Future Fit has led to confusion and a now firmly embedded narrative of cuts and closures, such that the proposal will not secure support in Telford.



The failure to persuade a single member of the Telford CCG to support the proposal illustrates the inadequacy of the process.

Multiple partners and stakeholders have raised concerns about the evidence base and its interpretation. The attempt to drive through a recommendation that was unacceptable to the entire Telford CCG board shows an arrogance and determination to ride roughshod over the concerns of local clinicians and local people. All the concerns I have raised as the local MP have been ignored.

Publically there is no confidence in Future Fit and local hostility to this poorly managed programme increases each day.

When combined with the budget deficit at Shropshire CCG and the recently derided Sustainability and Transformation Plan, healthcare management in Shropshire is in a downward spiral.

Despite the best intentions, sometimes failing projects will reach a point when time must be called: NHS Future Fit is now past that point. This cannot go on.

Healthcare in Telford and Shropshire needs transforming to deliver for the future, but Future Fit is not capable of doing this. Whilst I fully support local healthcare being decided by local commissioners, we see that local commissioners cannot, in this case, agree on the way forward.

Any public consultation will not now take place until mid 2017, but even after consultation it seems impossible that any consensus will be achieved. We are simply deferring the imposition of a proposal that has no support amongst local clinicians in Telford nor amongst local people.

I ask that you invite NHS England to step in to resolve this impasse.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Allan'.

Lucy Allan MP