Virtual live sharing event – mental health consultation feedback

David Moody
Covid-19 has shown that travel can be very difficult and risky for a patient's health, as this was a recurring theme in the consultation, will this be something you will consider in your final decision on top of the issues already made clear regarding the difficulties that travelling to Yeovil will cause patients and their family.

Response: Thank you for your question. All the key themes identified in the consultation feedback is directly informing the development of our decision-making business case. A dedicated section of the decision-making business case will review each key issue raised in the response to the consultation, include a discussion and evidence and identify the conclusion and response.

The members of the CCG's Governing Body will weigh the views shared through consultation alongside a wide range of other factors. These will include government guidance and legislation, data which shows us the needs of our different communities and populations, financial costs, environmental impact, staffing and sustainability.

Terence Bird, on behalf of the Wells City Practice Patient Participation Group
As a patient group we remain sceptical of the benefits of the proposed closure of the beds at St Andrews Ward in Wells. The feedback confirms to us that on balance the closure will be detrimental to potential service users and carers in Wells and the surrounding area and for this reason we ask the CCG to reconsider its proposal.

On the question of the feedback we offer three observations.

First, we endorse the thrust of the comments received that travel for patients and carers will become extremely difficult, time consuming and costly. This is a significant issue that cannot be brushed aside.

Secondly, continuing to provide access to beds within the facility helps those with a short term need who are then able to return quickly to their normal environment.

Finally, we reject the impression given by the report that because a majority of responses are from people local to the Wells area this somehow unfairly biases the feedback against the proposal. On the contrary, since local people are disproportionately affected by the proposal their voice should be given even more weight than those for whom the exercise is theoretical rather than real.

Response: thank you for your feedback. We recognise that travel is a key theme in the consultation feedback. All the key themes identified in the consultation feedback

are directly informing the development of our decision-making business case. A dedicated section of the decision-making business case will review each key issue raised in the response to the consultation, include a discussion and evidence and identify the conclusion and response.

We note your point about having the beds available locally supporting addressing short term need for patients. We recognise the importance of local networks and support. The decision-making business case will address this issue.

We acknowledge your comment about the weight given to local views. We would reiterate that the adult mental health beds for people of working age are a countywide resource however we know that there is strong local feeling on the proposed relocation.

We can assure you that the members of the CCG's Governing Body will weigh the views shared through consultation alongside a wide range of other factors. These will include government guidance and legislation, data which shows us the needs of our different communities and populations, financial costs, environmental impact, staffing and sustainability.