

# FOCUS ON HEALTH

May/June 2018

## It's time to decide on the future of Shropshire's hospitals

### What's happening?

Health bosses want to invest £312 million authorised by the Department of Health to reorganise our two main hospitals. They have launched a public consultation under the Future Fit programme. The consultation closes at the beginning of September.

### What is being proposed?

The recommended plan is to close the A&E unit at the Princes Royal Hospital in Telford and expand the A&E at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

### What works best for the Ludlow area?

**We councillors are backing Option 1, with the A&E located at the Royal Shrewsbury.**

This is the best option for Ludlow and the surrounding villages. It will take 13 minutes longer for a blue light ambulance to travel from Ludlow to an A&E site in Telford. That's 13 lifesaving minutes.

### Why aren't you backing two A&Es?

In a perfect world and with a better funded NHS, we would want an A&E in both towns. But that option is not being offered by health chiefs. Shropshire residents are being given a hard choice between an A&E in Shrewsbury and planned care in Telford (Option 1). If not, the A&E in will be Telford and planned care in Shrewsbury (Option 2).

**These are the only options being offered.**

**OPTION 1 IS BEST FOR LUDLOW.**

## futurefit Option 1

The single A&E at Shrewsbury

Planned care at Telford

Women & Children's Centre  
at Shrewsbury

Major Injury Units at both sites

Maternity at both sites

Outpatients at both sites



## Option 2

The single A&E at Telford

Planned care at Shrewsbury

Women & Children's Centre  
at Telford

Major Injury Units at both sites

Maternity at both sites

Outpatients at both sites



**EMERGENCY CARE** is unplanned care that patients receive in a life or limb threatening situation (A&E).

**URGENT CARE** is care for illnesses and injuries that are not life or limb threatening but do require urgent attention. For example, a broken arm, a minor burn or a cut that needs stitches.

**PLANNED CARE** is operations, procedures and appointments that are prearranged.

## **Please respond to the consultation**

We need to ensure the voice of rural Shropshire is heard.

The consultation documents are at [www.nhsfuturefit.org](http://www.nhsfuturefit.org). You can get a paper copy there, by calling 0300 3000 903 or emailing [nhsfuturefit@nhs.net](mailto:nhsfuturefit@nhs.net).

The consultation begins on 30 May and runs for 14 weeks until 4 September.

Consultation events are planned in Ludlow on Saturday 30 June and Wednesday 4 July. Please check local media for the final details.



**Ludlow Liberal Democrats**

### **Shropshire Councillors for Ludlow & Clee**

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## **LOCAL HEALTH NEWS**

### **A bus to Telford**

Whatever the decision on Future Fit, public transport between the south of the county and the Princes Royal Hospital must be improved. The health service should subsidise a bus between Ludlow and PRH, perhaps calling at communities cut off from public transport such as Ditton Priors and at Telford shopping centre.

We would like to see this bus service put in place as part of the Future Fit package. It will also improve east west public transport across the south of the county.

### **Ambulance responses**

Ambulance response times are set to get longer. In 2017, it took an average of 20 minutes for an ambulance to arrive to the most urgent 999 calls in the SY8 area.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has now decided it will no longer base paramedics at Ludlow Community Hospital. The nearest base will be Craven Arms. That's bound to mean longer response times.

### **Maternity Unit**

It is not just ambulances that are going from Ludlow. The midwifery-led maternity unit is now more often closed for births than it is open. Nervous mothers have little choice at the moment but to opt to go to Shrewsbury or to Telford, or even out of county to Hereford. If they choose Ludlow, the chances are it will be closed at no notice due to yet another staff shortage.

We fear it will not be many months before health bosses announce that so few babies are being born in Ludlow and other rural maternity units, they must close permanently.