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Agenda Item 15
NHS Herefordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Herefordshire CCG
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13th August 2019

Dear Ledbury Town Councillors,

I am writing to clarify details that were reported last week in the local media around the services provided at the Ledbury Intermediate care Unit, run by Shaw Healthcare, particularly those related to the bed provision which is currently closed due to the lack of GP cover until a new arrangement for this can be put in place.

The beds in Ledbury provide what is known as 'intermediate' or 'step down' care, whereby a patient, after a stay in an acute hospital setting (such as a Hereford County Hospital for example), would have a short stay as an intermediate measure to undergo assessments or therapies that prepare them to return home. This is under a long term contract with Shaw healthcare.

To enable this, there needs to be doctor cover assigned to the facility to provide medical cover. The contract with St Katherine's Practice was coming to an end and they indicated that they needed to prioritise their resources within the Practice and would no longer hold the contract to provide this for the Shaw unit. There has not been a 'row' (as reported) or even a disagreement on this, and the CCG fully supports that St Katherine's Practice first priority is to its registered patients, especially as a market town with a growing population.

As reported, NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has been working with Herefordshire Council and Shaw Healthcare to pilot a new scheme for ensuring that people can return to their homes as quickly as possible after a stay in hospital and return to living independently. This has resulted in a greater input from therapy services such as physiotherapy, provided by Wye Valley NHS Trust while people are at Ledbury Intermediate Care Unit.

The CCG would like to assure the Town Council that this has been a temporary closure in light of securing alternative medical cover and admissions will recommence from September onwards. The CCG can confirm that there are no discussions or plans to close these beds.

If you have any questions, please get in touch directly and I'll be happy to speak to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Jade Brooks
Acting Director of Operations
NHS Herefordshire CCG

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