

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Committee</i>	Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Committee</i>	19th July 2006
<i>Report Title</i>	Questions from Councillor Copping - Patient Choice/Choose & Book - Response from the South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
<i>Summary</i>	A copy of the response from the Trust is attached.
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Response to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Patient Choice/Choose & Book

Public Question Time Meeting 25 January 2006

Question:

GP patients have had “choose and book” since 1.1.06. Many have chosen to go for elective orthopaedic surgery to Kidderminster, 2 months wait, instead of Warwick, 4 months wait. Why is there such a long waiting list & 23% of the existing beds are being taken out of commission at the same time? Will Warwick Hospital no longer be on

There was a requirement to reduce the previous 9 month maximum wait for surgery down to 6 months. This was helped by the initiatives below.

Patient Choice was introduced as a Department of Health initiative in April 2004 for those patients waiting in excess of 6 months for their elective surgery. This enabled suitable patients to have the opportunity to have their surgery undertaken elsewhere within 6 months of being added to the waiting list. The responsibility to offer choice to patients rested with Primary Care Trusts. This initiative ceased in December 2005 as new national targets were then in place of treatment within 6 months of being placed on the waiting list.

Apr – Dec 05

Number of patients transferred from Warwick Hospital to a private provider (Solihull) – 64.

In addition there was a Department of Health initiative (**GSupp**) specifically for orthopaedic hip and knee patients to be offered the opportunity to have their surgery undertaken in the private sector as part of the Department of Health contract with the private sector. This initiative was to help reduce the overall waiting time to 6 months.

July 05 – Mar 06

Number of patients transferred from Warwick Hospital to a private provider (Nuneaton) - 98.

Kidderminster – South Warwickshire PCT made a decision based on financial considerations to request that patients already on the orthopaedic waiting list for **day case surgery** be offered the choice of having their surgery undertaken earlier than they would have at Warwick Hospital at Kidderminster Treatment Centre.

Sep – Dec 05

Number of patients transferred from Warwick Hospital – 30.

The indication was that this surgery would be undertaken within 2 months, however, only one patient of the 30 had their surgery undertaken within 8 weeks. The average wait for the 30 patients was in excess of 17 weeks. The Trust already had, and continues to have, a 4-5 month wait for orthopaedic **day case surgery procedures**.

The case mix for the patients that transferred were the straight forward cases & also patients that did not have any other health complications.

Choose and Book relates to out patient booking. Following consultation with their General Practitioner patients are offered a choice of 4-5 hospitals for their out patient appointment and subsequent treatment. Information about the hospitals will have been supplied to the patients by their GP. Further information is available via the Choose and Book Advice Line.