

Wednesday 22 May

## Health column

**Dr Jonathan Wells**

**Chair and Clinical Lead for NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group**

When pressure builds across the health and social care system, the symptoms are usually found in the A&E Department. Over recent days there have been national reports about the long-term sustainability of Accident and Emergency services due to demand and pressure in that part of the system.

As commissioners we're responsible for arranging health services for the residents of Redditch and Bromsgrove. We've been operating in shadow form since last year and became a fully established statutory organisation on April 1st. We have been working very closely with our partners in the local NHS, Social Care and the Voluntary and Community sectors, to put plans in place to reduce pressure on our Acute and Emergency services.

I'd like to draw your attention to some of the work which is going on and how this could affect the way that services operate. The Well Connected programme is a new initiative which will reduce avoidable hospital admissions and the length of time people who are admitted to hospital need to stay there. The programme is designed to better join up and co-ordinate health and care for people to support them to stay healthy and to recover quickly following an illness. It will ensure that care and treatment is received in the most appropriate place. It's a system-wide approach which all health and social care leaders in the county are backing through a "shared commitment". Part of this approach is to develop alternative services in the community allowing people to remain at home, or close to home, perhaps with the aid of new technology, and receive an equivalent or better experience than they would have had in a hospital. This will reduce demand on hospital emergency services, leaving A&E with the capacity it needs to provide a safe and effective service.

Please be assured we are doing everything we can to address the issues in our acute and emergency hospital services. To stay up to date follow me on Twitter @RBCCG\_Chair and see our website [www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk](http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk)

**-Ends-**

### Notes for Editors

- For more information about NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group please visit [www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk](http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk)
- NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG represent 22 GP practices and serve a patient population of 170,000 patients.
- Find out all the latest news by 'liking' our page on Facebook [www.facebook.com/redditchandbromsgroveccg](https://www.facebook.com/redditchandbromsgroveccg). Follow Dr Jonathan Wells, Chair and Clinical Lead for RBCCG on Twitter @RBCCG\_Chair
- For interviews or more information please contact Hardeep Cheema, Communications Manager on 07423 524211 or email [Hardeep.Cheema@worcestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:Hardeep.Cheema@worcestershire.nhs.uk)