

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

27 MARCH 2018

ITEM NO 9 - HEALTH

Councillor Hoskin to move:

This Council notes:

- Our local NHS has gone through reorganisation after reorganisation over the past eight years. Underfunding of our NHS continues to grow with a projected £495 million pound funding gap for West of Berkshire, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire areas unless action is taken. This represents a significant threat to the ability of providers to carry out their services. Underfunding has contributed to Royal Berkshire Hospital's worst A&E winter performance on record last year.
- It's disappointing that after significant changes brought by the Health and Social Care Act 2014 and the NHS's Five Year Forward View there are to be yet more changes with the introduction of Integrated Care Systems. Integrated Care Systems operate with little transparency and accountability to the wider public. There is a potential for these Integrated Care Systems to become Accountable Care Organisations.
- That the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Jeremy Hunt, stated that these Accountable Care Organisations could be sent out and tendered by 'independent sector organisations'.

Reading Borough Council Believes:

- That NHS services should remain in public ownership and that elements of the system that have been privatised ought to be brought back into public ownership.
- That integrated working between health and social care where it is beneficial and focussed around the needs of communities and people should be pursued but can only be successful when fully funded.
- That the Berkshire West Integrated Care System needs to operate with strong transparency and accountability to the public.

Reading Borough Council Resolves:

- To oppose the creation of any form of Accountable Care Organisation in the Berkshire West area that would be open to private contract tender or have any kind of company type structure.
- To call upon the board of the Integrated Care System partnership to make arrangements for public access to the Board's agendas, meetings and minutes.
- To call upon local the Berkshire West Integrated Care System to be fully transparent and consult the public over the development of its plans to deal with its funding gap.