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Member of Parliament for Rugby



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Dr Sarah Raistrick
Chair
Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group
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REF: CJ/MP33887

Dear *Sarah,*

RE: Coventry and Warwickshire Urgent and Emergency Care Services

I was pleased to learn that Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group are undertaking a consultation on urgent and emergency care services and I wanted to write to you directly to set out the views of my constituents on this matter.

Rugby's residents are extremely proud of the Hospital of St Cross and were bitterly disappointed in the late 1990s when the Accident and Emergency service was downgraded. At the time, this decision was taken on the basis that Rugby's catchment area was not large enough to provide sufficient opportunities to enable clinicians to maintain their skills.

There was a consultation shortly after my election as Rugby's Member of Parliament in 2010 on changes to Urgent and Emergency Care Services, and I held a public meeting which was well attended. During this meeting, the strength of feeling from Rugby residents was clear on their desire for more services, not fewer at the Hospital of St Cross.

Among the concerns raised at the time were the cost of travel to University Hospital in Coventry from Rugby because of both the distance and the parking charges, and also that the demand at University Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department would exceed supply as a result of a growing population in both Coventry and Rugby.

The people of Rugby are extremely keen to see more services at the Hospital of St Cross, especially a full Emergency Care department. As you will be aware, Rugby is one of the fastest growing places in the UK and has an ambitious local plan that expects an additional 12,500 new homes by 2031. Although there are planned infrastructure improvements, including new schools and roads, there is no clarity on which additional services the Hospital of St Cross can expect as a result of this growth.

A number of similarly sized towns already have full Accident and Emergency departments, including Burton on Trent, Kettering, Redditch and Shrewsbury. Rugby is the biggest urban area in Warwickshire without its own Accident and Emergency provision, and as a result of its local plan, could see a population rise of 30,000 over the next decade. On this basis, I think it is imperative that full consideration is given to restoring the Hospital of St Cross's Accident and Emergency department.

I look forward to your reply and would be happy to meet to discuss this matter in more detail. Please note that due to the strength of feeling on this matter in Rugby, I am making this letter public.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Pawsey MP

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