

## **Seven Point Plan for the NHS**

I believe in the founding principles of the NHS - that the service should meet the needs of everyone, no matter who they are or where they live and that care should be based on clinical need, not the ability to pay and should be free at the point of use.

The Government will hold fast to these principles by providing the NHS with the resources it needs and holding it accountable for delivering exceptional care to patients wherever and whenever they need it. It has committed to increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years, delivering an increase in real funding per head of the population for every year of the parliament.

The last Budget confirmed that £425 million of extra investment in the NHS in the next three years to support the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans, with £100 million earmarked for A&E departments in 2017-18, to help them manage demand ahead of next winter, and help patients get to primary care faster.

A strong Worcestershire NHS needs our support and these are my key priorities for the coming years:

### **1 Extra investment**

Worcestershire Royal Hospital has struggled to deal with the number of patients it needs to treat and together with my Worcestershire MP colleagues, we all support a £29 million bid to build extra capacity at our Worcestershire hospitals and supported the long-overdue measures which will re-configure services to offer the best possible care for local people at our hospitals.

### **2 New management**

The Worcestershire NHS Acute Trust has appointed a new chair, a new CEO and is recruiting great new staff to lead a dramatic shift in capability and in time, better performance. I plan to regularly meet with the new senior management to make sure it is showing the right leadership as it works towards coming out of special measures and to ensure the right support is given to clinicians to offer the best possible care across our local health economy.

### **3 Winter pressures**

Most hospitals face extra pressures during the winter and the Government allocates extra funding to help individual hospitals cope. I will continue to back bids to secure extra funding to help our local NHS deal with extra winter pressures – there will be £900,000 available to help this winter and it is an important measure when hospitals face unexpected high demand.

### **4 Capital investment**

We've seen some great investment in buildings. We've opened a brand new £17 million community hospital in Malvern, a superb £22.5 million oncology unit in Worcester, the amazing birthing centre and the new breast centre, also in Worcester. This investment means that we are getting great new buildings across the health service which patients – and staff – value.

### **5 Reducing A&E pressures**

When we hear of stories of long waits at A&E, this is often because staff are swamped deciding which patients actually need urgent care. This means better communications to encourage people to make better use of their own GP surgeries, pharmacists, the 111 advice telephone system and local

Minor Injuries Units across the county to take the pressure off the hard-pressed Accident and Emergency Unit at Worcestershire Royal.

## **6 A strong future**

We are all lucky enough to be living longer and Worcestershire's elderly population present extra challenges for our local NHS. The NHS's own management is working on a plan to address this issue while also finding areas where savings could be made. This Sustainability Transformation Plan will be a blueprint for delivering care in the future and as part of this process, I will continue to press for more services to be delivered locally at the community hospitals in Malvern, Tenbury and Pershore.

## **7 Supporting the staff**

We all agree that doctors and nurses do an amazing job. As we work towards a seven day a week NHS across the country, I will support measures which help staff to do the best possible job including recruiting more doctors and nurses, committing to 1,500 more people studying medicine, 10,000 more mental health professionals and supporting local initiatives to increase the investment in training for health professionals. I will continue to speak up for the staff and back them as they deliver excellent care for us and our loved ones when we most need it.