

**NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Governing Body  
meeting – 19 November 2014**

**Public Questions**

**Question 1 (from Mr Philip Jordan)**

**Question**

Please, why does it appear that there is no - &/or what is – the information, planning & actuality, regarding the impact of the many visitors' visits (of various types and durations) to Dorset CCG's area; and how different the situation is in the conurbation compared to, say, much of western Purbeck, Weymouth and Portland and West Dorset?

**Answer - from Jane Pike, Director of Service Delivery  
(tel: 01202 541498/email : [jane.pike@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.pike@dorsetccg.nhs.uk))**

Mr Jordan, thank you for your question. NHS Dorset CCG is responsible for the commissioning and funding of health care for patients who are registered with GP Practices in Dorset. Funding for health care provided at Dorset hospitals for other UK patients is the responsibility of the specific patient's own CCG or Health Board. Treatment for patients from outside of the UK will either be funded through reciprocal arrangements between the UK and the relevant country or will otherwise be funded by the patient themselves.

The majority of health care provided at Dorset hospitals relates to patients who are registered with Dorset GP practices and activity and services are planned on an annual basis taking into account recent activity levels, population health needs, and any agreed changes to service delivery and provision. Although patients in England have the right to choose any hospital provider the level of planned or elective hospital activity in Dorset that relates to non-Dorset patients is consistent and does not impact on NHS Dorset's commissioning of services and the ability of the hospitals to deliver those services to agreed standards.

The majority of health care activity relating to non-Dorset patients relates to people temporarily in the area and receiving treatment on an emergency or unplanned basis. As indicated in the question there is a significant influx of people into Dorset on a seasonal basis and there are also differences between localities in the number of visitors. The level of

activity in general and at local level is, however, relatively stable year on year. Local health care providers are, therefore, able to plan for sufficient capacity to treat both Dorset and non-Dorset patients based upon recent activity levels and any anticipated changes.

NHS Dorset CCG is in continual dialogue with hospital providers in respect of performance and any impact from an unforeseen increase in non-Dorset hospital activity on e.g. waiting times would, therefore be raised and addressed in a timely and appropriate.