

A new community hospital for the Forest of Dean

Caroline Smith

Senior Manager, Engagement &
Inclusion

Background

- Forest of Dean health and care services review launched in 2015
- Forest of Dean Locality Reference Group established to support the review
- Feedback and engagement informed our Case for Change and our proposal for the future for community hospital services

Public Consultation

We asked people's views on:

- Our preferred option for a new community hospital for the Forest of Dean
- The criteria we should use to help decide where any new hospital could be located
- How a recommendation should be made on any preferred location



Location, location, location.....



What is a citizens' jury?

- Deliberation, not debate
- Engage people in decisions that affect them
- Public policy decisions are often complex and based on evidence and values – raise public awareness
- Provides transparency to the process
- Opportunity to do things differently: “Bringing people with us”

Particular challenges

- Hospital location is a controversial topic where there are strong local loyalties
- Backdrop of legal challenge and the need to be comprehensive
- Recruiting a fair cross-section of citizens to choose a location for Forest of Dean District residents as a whole
- Providing a fair and relevant balance of information to the jury
- Being as open and transparent as possible whilst protecting jurors

Design of the jury

- One main question plus subsidiary questions
- A wide range of evidence required
 - Impartial witnesses
 - Representatives from 3 towns presenting arguments
- Protecting against bias
 - Two independent facilitators
 - 3 towns given the same witness briefing, time, etc.
 - Open to public observers
 - Everything published online
 - Independent oversight panel

Jury recruitment

- Advertised on Indeed, radio, local papers, public engagement booklet, posters – £470 payment offered
- 218 applications from people in Forest of Dean District (checked against FoD District postcode file)
- Shortlisted to provide mix by age, gender, ethnicity, educational attainment, employment status, postcode
- Telephone interview – 3 withdrew, no one rejected
- 18 jurors plus 5 reserves selected
- Addressing self-selection bias



Much Dewchurch

Hoarwithy

Redmarley D'Abitot

Tewkesbury

A449

M50

M5

A49

Newent

A417

Hartpury

Ross-on-Wye

A4137

A40

A40

Cheltenham

Mitcheldean

A40

Gloucester

Brockworth

A436

Symonds Yat

A48

Quedgeley

Cinford

Monmouth

St. Andrew

Frampton on Severn

Cotswolds AONB

A40

A48

Clearwell

Stroud

aglan

Trelleck

St. Davids

Lydney

River Severn

M5

Tintern

Berkeley

Dursley

Nailsworth

Kem

A48

A38

A429

Chepstow

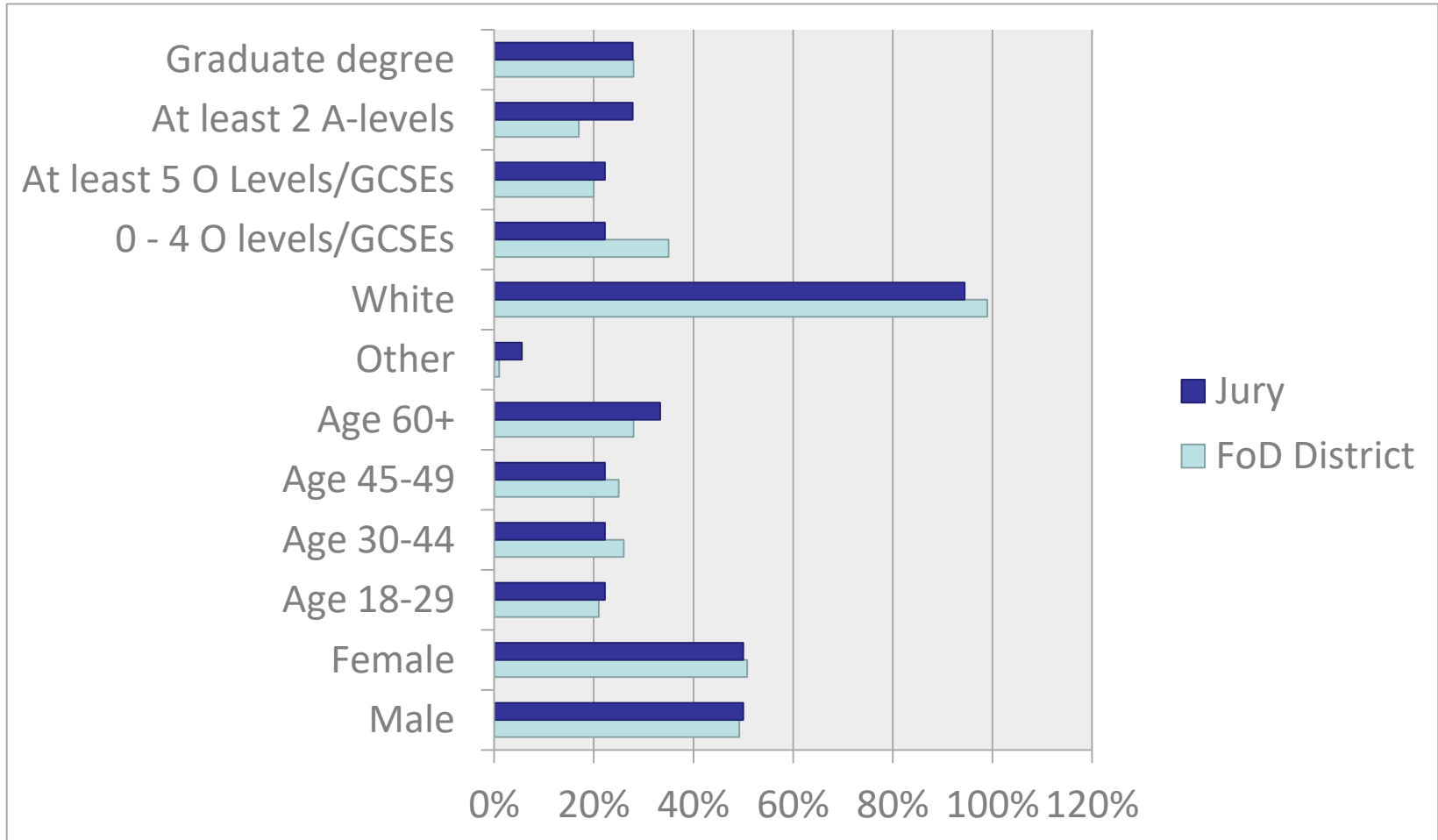
Wotton-under-Edge

Tetbury

A433

Thornbury

Matching demographic



Being open to the public

- Public observers could watch but not speak to jurors etc.
- Witness slides and other jury materials released online and in ring binders for observers each morning
- A couple of exercises in private
- Local newspapers and BBC filming on day 1, and again on day 5

<https://citizensjuries.org/citizens-juries-2/forest-of-dean-citizens-jury/>

Decision making

- Clear accountability
- Supplementary Vote System
- Important that the Governing Body/Board reviewed the same evidence as the Jury
- Joint seminar received presentations:
 - Engagement
 - Travel analysis
 - Equality Impact Assessment
 - Jury decision

Documentation

Involvement

Time

Legal obligations

Communication

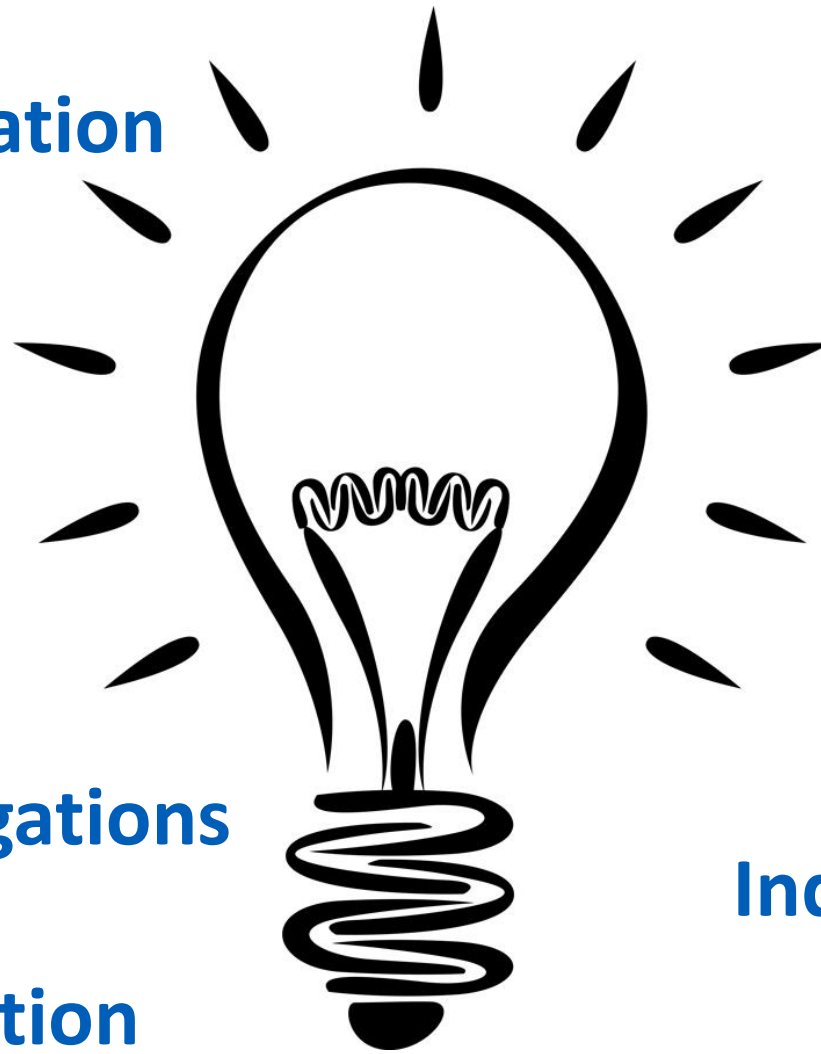
Transparency

Funding

Plan

Independence

Expect the unexpected...



Final words:

