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Update from HOSC meetings in February and March

There have been three HOSC meetings since the last newsletter discussing a wide range of items (below). Click on the meeting date for the full agenda and papers for each meeting.

**24th February 2009**

This meeting focused on the PCT’s North East Review (of health services in the north east of West Sussex). A HOSC Task Force scrutinised the review, which was carried out by a Panel commissioned by the PCT. Minutes of the meeting have now been published on the website. Please click here to view them.

- **North East Review Panel report.** Sir Graham Catto, Chairman of the Panel presented the final report and recommendations. Key issues discussed by the Committee included whether or not there is an identifiable need for a new acute hospital in the north east area, and the difficulties experienced by patients and their families in accessing health services. Overall, HOSC Members welcomed the Panel report and suggested that the PCT should act quickly to implement the recommendations and to prioritise those likely to have the most significant impact. HOSC also wanted the PCT to ensure that key partners, such as the County and District and Borough Councils, are involved in implementation.

- **Children’s Services Working Group (CSWG).** Dr. Amit Bhargava, CSWG Chairman, presented a report setting out plans for the future delivery of children’s health services in the north east area. HOSC Members emphasised the importance of joint working with social care services and agreed that the integration of health and social care services for children should be included in HOSC’s future work programme.

- **Views of Key Witnesses.** Representatives of the hospital and ambulance trusts for the area gave a joint presentation, outlining key areas they had identified for improvement, including the need to focus less on organisations and more on clinical pathways. They also suggested there is a need for a more detailed review of mental health services, particularly for the elderly mentally ill, and asked that any future decisions arising from Fit for the Future take into account the North East Review recommendations.

The Committee also heard from a number of local stakeholders including the North East Review Stakeholder Forum, local MPs, Henry Smith (Leader West Sussex County Council) and representatives of Horsham & Mid Sussex District Councils, and Crawley Borough Council. John Wilderspin, West Sussex PCT Chief Executive, spoke of the importance of addressing long-term conditions, phasing, affordability, deliverability and issues of equity. He said the PCT needed to look at how to apply the lessons learned from the review across the south of the county.
Conclusions. The Committee supported the Task Force’s endorsement of the NE Review process and welcomed the Panel report and recommendations. HOSC made 18 of its own recommendations that have now been forwarded to the PCT Board for consideration, including:

- The PCT should give longer lead-in times to all such reviews and engagement exercises, to enable input into the planning process by HOSC and other key organisations.
- All key partners (local authorities and health organisations) should consider establishing a shared central list of contacts for future consultation and engagement.
- The PCT should consider opportunities to enhance and extend services at Crawley Hospital.
- The PCT should include consideration of the potential to develop additional acute health services and facilities as part of its regular review of capacity, capability and access to secondary care services in the North East of West Sussex.

HOSC will monitor the implementation of the North East Review, particularly:

1. The impact of the PCT’s approach to shifting services from the acute to the community sector.
2. The review of capacity, capability and access to secondary care services and beds in the North East.
3. The level of emergency admissions to Acute Trusts serving West Sussex residents.

Reprovision of Mental Health Services in Mid Sussex. The Committee considered a report from an informal meeting held on 18th February in Haywards Heath, to review the implementation of the following changes, made in July 2008:

- Day hospital and community services for older people moved from Princess Royal Hospital and Linwood Community Mental Health Centre (Haywards Heath) to the Summerfold Building (Burgess Hill).
- Services for people of Working Age moved from Summerfold to Linwood Community Mental Health Centre.

Service users, carers and local councillors were invited to give their views at this meeting – and although the changes were generally considered to have been a success, some concerns at the level of consultation were highlighted. HOSC concluded that Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (responsible for the provision of mental health services across Sussex) should consider working more closely with stakeholders to ensure concerns are identified and addressed more proactively in future.

Enhancing services and support for people with dementia. Further information on the new National Dementia Strategy is set out later in the newsletter. Key concerns raised by the Committee were around early diagnosis and intervention, professional training, working age dementia and emergency access to beds, respite and day care services. It was agreed that future scrutiny of dementia should be carried out jointly by HOSC and the Adults’ Services Select Committee.

Annual Health Check 2008/09. The Committee discussed comments from liaison members about West Sussex Trusts’ performance and agreed these should be forwarded to the Trusts for inclusion in their 2008-09 submissions. It was noted that the Healthcare Commission is being replaced by the Care Quality Commission from April 2009, which will become the new health and social care watchdog. 2008/9 will be the final year of the current Annual Health Check regime, however details of any new regime are yet to be finalised.
HOSC 27th April 2009

- **Regional Centre for Teaching, Trauma and Tertiary Care.** Representatives of Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust gave a presentation setting out plans for their “3 T Programme”. The Trust plans to modernise buildings and develop services to strengthen tertiary care and provide a major trauma centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital campus in Brighton. This includes enhanced cancer and heart treatment and it’s hoped that more patients from Sussex will be able to use services at Brighton rather than having to travel further afield.

The catchment area for the new trauma centre isn’t precise, but it is expected that it would receive most of the West Sussex trauma cases to the east of Bognor Regis (with the western area of the County served by the trauma centre at Southampton). The Trust hopes to create an additional 200 parking spaces as part of the development, and the building programme is due to begin in Spring 2010.

- **West Sussex PCT’s Public Engagement Plans.** Steven Pollack, Director of Communications and Patient and Public Involvement, outlined the PCT’s plans, focusing on:
  i. New PCT Membership Scheme
  ii. Public involvement in Practice Based Commissioning
  iii. GP practices’ Patient Participation Groups

The challenges to achieving continuous and meaningful engagement were highlighted, and HOSC Members suggested the PCT would be judged on whether it could demonstrate real public influence on its policies. There was some concern that the Membership Scheme might be expensive and bureaucratic, and the PCT has been asked to provide a breakdown of its costs.

- **Implementation of the North East Review.** The PCT gave an update on the North East Review, including its response to the HOSC recommendations and an action plan for implementation of the Panel’s recommendations. Key issues outlined for the Committee included:
  - Access and transport issues to be co-ordinated. The PCT will be developing a new Fair Access Strategy.
  - An external consultant will be looking at mapping capacity in the north east area.
  - The PCT is hoping to see an increase in the number of outpatient and diagnostic services at both Crawley and Horsham Hospitals.
  - There will be a 12 month pilot to extend the opening hours of the minor injuries unit at Horsham Hospital.
  - The future of maternity services in the area is being reviewed as part of the Fit for the Future process (see later article in this newsletter).

HOSC members highlighted the importance of involving carers as well as patients in discussions about service change, and agreed that the Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the North East Review.

Key areas for future consideration will be:
  - Progress with capacity mapping
  - Work on expanding the capacity of community hospitals
  - The new Partnership for Health Board

- **Organisational Structure of Community Services / Primary Angioplasty.** Other issues looked at by the Committee included the future organisational structure of West Sussex Health (the community health services/provider arm of the PCT) and plans to develop Primary Angioplasty Services in Sussex. The Committee’s Business Planning Group will continue to monitor both these issues.

HOSC members highlighted the importance of involving carers as well as patients in discussions about service change, and agreed that the Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the North East Review.

Key areas for future consideration will be:
  - Progress with capacity mapping
  - Work on expanding the capacity of community hospitals
  - The new Partnership for Health Board

- **Trust Merger**

  [Western Sussex Hospitals logo]

Royal West Sussex NHS Trust (St. Richard’s Hospital) and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust have now merged. The new Trust is called “Western Sussex Hospitals” and was launched on 1st April 2009. Its Chief Executive is Marianne Griffiths, and the Chairman is Hywel Evans. HOSC has been kept updated on this organisational change, and will be consulted by the new Trust if any service changes are planned in the future. For more information on the merger and the new trust, click [here](#).
Fit for the Future – Latest News

As a result of the Fit for the Future programme, the PCT concluded that three major services should be centralised:

- Inpatient paediatrics;
- Consultant-led inpatient maternity services;
- Emergency surgery.

The PCT is now reviewing this decision, in the light of the merger between Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust and Royal West Sussex NHS Trust. The PCT has established clinical groups to review the evidence and develop a set of “commissioning intentions” for each of the three key service areas. These may either confirm the original decision on the service model or come up with new proposals. Various interested parties will then discuss the proposals before being submitted to the PCT Board on 2nd September. Depending on the nature of any new proposals, further public consultation may then be required.

The Joint HOSC (made up of West Sussex County Council and its five neighbouring local authorities) has the responsibility of scrutinising the Fit for the Future proposals. It referred the original decision to the Secretary of State for Health, and will need to consider the outcome of the current PCT review. It is therefore likely that the Joint HOSC will be reconvened in September 2009, to scrutinise any decisions taken by the PCT Board.

World Class Commissioning in West Sussex

West Sussex PCT has developed its first assurance report for this, which is available on their website. The key aspects of World Class Commissioning are to ensure that the care and services commissioned will be long-term, and will deliver on improving the health of people in West Sussex.

Also, South East Coast NHS has put together the ‘Developing World Class Commissioning in the South East Coast Region’ document to summarize the support it can offer PCTs and other commissioners of services as they prepare to become World Class Commissioners. The document has put forward some of its ideas, based on the support currently provided, along with some questions and challenges.

Implications for HOSC of World Class Commissioning

When scrutinising World Class Commissioning plans, HOSCs may wish to consider the following questions:

- Has the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment been fully taken into account?
- What are the commissioning priorities, and whose are they (e.g. community, PCT, provider, government)?
- Is there a clear alignment with the Local Area Agreement?
- Do the plans indicate significant service change in the provider landscape?
- Is there a level playing field for smaller providers to enter the commissioning process?
- Are they demonstrating patient and public involvement in all areas of the cycle of commissioning?
- What happens if the service is not up to scratch?
- How are health inequalities addressed?
In February 2009, the Department of Health (DH) published their first national dementia strategy. This is a comprehensive strategy covering all aspects of care from a good quality early diagnosis through to living well with dementia and end of life care. It demands a transformation in service provision for people with dementia; there are seventeen key objectives all of which are important in improving services, including:

- Good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all
- Good quality information for those with diagnosed dementia and their carers
- Enabling easy access to care, support and advice following diagnosis
- Development of structured peer support and learning networks
- Improved community personal support services
- Implementing the Carers’ Strategy
- Improved quality of care for people with dementia in general hospitals
- Improved intermediate care for people with dementia
- Living well with dementia in care homes
- Improved end of life care for people with dementia
- An informed and effective workforce for people with dementia

Preparation for Implementation in West Sussex

Reviews in West Sussex (including the North East Review) have found that:

- There is a range of services already available for people with dementia, and some of these are excellent.
- There is great dedication and energy among practitioners for people with dementia and for improving peoples’ lives.
- However, provision is inequitable, and there are large shortfalls in provision.
- There is also a lack of coherence within the whole system of care. The role and function of each element is currently unclear, as is their combined contribution to best quality and best value care. It is important to understand the value added by each service that is currently commissioned.
- There is a need to prioritise the development of services for early diagnosis and intervention relating to dementia, as well as provision for carers to take breaks.

Mental Health Services in West Sussex are commissioned both by the PCT (through the Mental Health Commissioning Team) and West Sussex County Council, and they will be working together to plan dementia services in West Sussex. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPT) is the main provider of mental health services in the county, and the commissioners will be working closely with them (and other service providers) to develop their plans.

It is anticipated that there will be a significant programme of service change in West Sussex; with implications for the way services are currently delivered. This is likely to lead to a re-balancing of resources from the predominantly bed based model we have now, to a home and community based model of provision – which will mean some bed closures. The timescale for these changes is long-term, with an anticipated 5-year delivery of the new strategy.

Further work and discussion is required to develop plans, and HOSC will be kept updated as this progresses. There will also be consultation with key affected parties (e.g. services users/carers and staff). Any proposals for specific service change or development will need to be scrutinised by the HOSC, and the Committee has agreed that any such scrutiny will be carried out jointly with the Adults’ Services Select Committee.

West Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINk)

The West Sussex LINk, which provides a local voice on health and social care issues, has now elected its first Stewardship Group. Its role will include prioritising and steering the work of the LINk. For further information on the LINk and details of who is on the Stewardship Group, click here.
News in Brief

- All County Councillors will be standing for re-election on 4th June, and new HOSC members will be appointed at the County Council meeting on 16th June.

- Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust (WSHT) are establishing a stakeholder forum to provide ‘effective and meaningful engagement with … patients, healthcare partners and [the] wider community.’ The first event will be held in Chichester on 18th May (details below).

- Waiting times for hospital treatment have been dramatically reduced for West Sussex patients. Click here for more details.

- For more information on West Sussex PCT’s membership scheme, ‘My NHS West Sussex’, click here.

- Glynn Jones has announced that he will be stepping down as the Chair of Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH). Click here for more details.

- Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust’s (QVH) specialist reconstructive unit named "Top Acute Hospital" in the prestigious Healthcare 100 awards. Click here for more details.

HOSC Support – New Office, New Phones!

The HOSC support team have moved offices. Below are their new contact details:

Room 105, First Floor, East Wing South, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helen Kenny</td>
<td>Scrutiny Officer (Health Scrutiny)</td>
<td>01243 752715</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk">helen.kenny@westsussex.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninesh Edwards</td>
<td>Scrutiny Officer (Mental Health Services)</td>
<td>01243 752714</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk">ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annalee Tebay</td>
<td>Member Services Officer</td>
<td>01243 752708</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annalee.tebay@westsussex.gov.uk">annalee.tebay@westsussex.gov.uk</a></td>
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Dates for your Diary

If you require any further information about these events, please contact the Scrutiny team.

- **18th May** – Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, Stakeholder event, Chichester, Medical Education Centre at St Richard’s Hospital, Chichester
- **21st May** – PCT Board meeting
- **4th June** – County Council Elections
- **16th June** – First County Council meeting following Elections (County Hall, Chichester)
- **16th July** – HOSC, County Hall, Chichester

We welcome ideas and submissions for future articles so please let us know if there is something you wish to submit. The next newsletter will be published in the summer (following the County Council Elections).