



News Release

Front-line medical staff gives views on 'Fit for the Future' proposals

Frontline medical staff will give clinical evidence about proposals to child birth and associated services at the next 'Fit for the Future' evidence gathering session.

The committee – East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is carefully scrutinising the 'Fit for the Future' proposals and has organised a number of evidence meetings, which are open to the public.

The next session at 3pm on 7 June at the White Rock Theatre, Hastings will focus on clinical evidence from:

- The Clinical Director for Women's Health Services, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
- Head of Midwifery, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
- Regional Officer, Royal College of Midwives
- Two local GPs

The new Chairman of the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Sylvia Tidy, said:

"HOSC is committed to a full, independent examination of the available evidence and this session will get expert views on issues such as the pros and cons of mid-wife led units and consultant-led care units and safety and quality.

"Members of the public are welcome to attend to hear the evidence and listen to the debate."

Two further evidence gathering sessions are planned for late June and July. A final meeting, likely to be in September, will then review all the information and the committee will formulate its response to the health organisations.

Ends



The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is managed by East Sussex County Council and works in partnership with Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council.

Notes for editors

Next evidence gathering sessions are:

22 June, 10am – Lewes, County Hall (and available to view live on the internet)

25 July, 10am – Lewes, County Hall (and available to view live on the internet)

Cllr Sylvia Tidy succeeded Cllr Bob Lacey as Chairman of East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2007 following Cllr Lacey's appointment as Chairman of East Sussex County Council.

Full details, including the programme and venue information will be published on the HOSC website www.eastsussexhealth.org or email healthscrutiny@eastsussex.gov.uk, telephone 01273 481581

Details of the PCTs public consultation are available from www.southeastcoastff.nhs.uk

What is the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

The committee looks at the work of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and National Health Service Trusts. It also looks at the way health services interact with council services.

HOSC can carry out independent reviews of any local health services provided and commissioned through the NHS or councils.

District, borough and county councillors come together through the committee along with representatives from the voluntary sector.

For more information, see the HOSC website at www.eastsussexhealth.org.

30 May 2007.