



News Release

Consultation on health 'not a moment too soon'

The Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in East Sussex have now announced a timetable for the much-awaited consultation into their proposals for the future of the health service.

The proposals under the 'Creating an NHS Fit for the Future' programme will be published on 12 March with consultation to begin later in March.

East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), which includes council members from the five districts and boroughs and representatives from the voluntary sector, welcomed the joint announcement by Hastings and Rother PCT and East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT.

Committee Chairman Cllr Bob Lacey said: "This announcement has not come a moment too soon. We have been waiting many weeks for the NHS to tell us what changes they are proposing for the future of healthcare in East Sussex and I am pleased that we will soon find out.

"Issues like the provision of maternity care affect tens of thousands of the county's residents and any uncertainty about their future is extremely unsettling. Local people and HOSC will now finally have the opportunity to give the two PCTs their views."

Ends

NOTE TO EDITORS:

HOSC:

East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) was set up, in October 2003, by East Sussex County Council in response to Government aims to get people more involved in health decision-making and improving local health services. The committee includes members from every district and borough in the county - Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden – and representatives from the voluntary sector.

The PCTs will be presenting their proposals to the next HOSC meeting on 23 March, 10 am at County Hall in Lewes. The meeting will also be webcast via the HOSC website at www.eastsussexhealth.org



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.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee last met on 22 September 2006.

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

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Notes end.

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