



Better health  
and wellbeing  
*for all*

## East Sussex

### Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

#### Annual Report 2009/10

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## East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report April 2009-March 2010

This report summarises the progress of the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). HOSC is made up of councillors from East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council and representatives from the local voluntary sector and East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK). The committee's aim is to contribute to improving health and wellbeing for the people of East Sussex. The committee looks at the work of National Health Service (NHS) organisations and acts as a 'critical friend' by suggesting ways that health related services might be improved. It also looks at the way the health service works in partnership with the County Council's social care services, the voluntary sector, independent providers and other council services to design and provide better health services to meet the diverse needs of East Sussex residents.

### **NHS Organisations in East Sussex**

#### **Commissioners of health services:**

NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald

NHS Hastings and Rother

These organisations, also known as Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), identify the health needs of the local population and plan and buy health services for East Sussex to meet these needs. They also oversee GPs, dentists, opticians and community staff such as district nurses and health visitors.

#### **Mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services:**

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

#### **Ambulance services:**

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust

#### **Hospital services:**

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

The NHS is required to consult HOSC on any plans which would result in major changes to services. HOSC can scrutinise any local health services provided or commissioned through the NHS as well as those provided by local authorities.

The committee was set up in 2003 as a result of the central government initiative aiming to strengthen the involvement of the public and patients in improving local health services.

## The highlights of HOSC's year: In Brief

### **East Sussex Maternity Services Strategy 2009-2012**

The East Sussex Maternity Services Strategy 2009-2012 was endorsed by HOSC in November 2009 and the committee will continue to monitor progress against its aims and objectives. The strategy provides for the continuation of consultant-led maternity services, special care baby services and in-patient gynaecology at Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings and the further development of community midwife services.

### **Rural health services investigation**

This event in Uckfield, attracting over 70 delegates, investigated how rural health services are planned, commissioned and delivered in East Sussex. Delegates discussed some of the key challenges of providing health services in rural areas including accessibility, economies of scale, viability and quality.

HOSC will explore a number of themes arising from the event including: the capacity and activities of informal independent groups of rural residents; how to ensure rural issues are taken into account when planning services; and the role of technology in improving delivery of services to rural communities. HOSC wants to be assured that targets set for health services do not inadvertently lead to poorer services for residents in rural areas.

### **Nutrition, hydration and feeding in hospitals review**

This review, which started in September 2009, aims to publish a report and recommendations in September 2010. It is scrutinising nutrition, hydration and feeding in acute hospitals which provide services to the people of East Sussex. The review particularly focuses on policies and practices to ensure that patients are getting the right nutritional care and are supported to eat and drink.

### **Stroke services review – progress on recommendations**

Improving stroke care in East Sussex is a priority and is the subject of national and local strategies. The local strategy includes around 20 recommendations which emerged from the HOSC review of stroke care services, completed in 2008. The implementation of the recommendations is being co-ordinated by a multi-agency Stroke Programme Board and HOSC has scrutinised progress.

### **Health centres in Eastbourne and Hastings**

HOSC has investigated the development of GP-led health centres in Eastbourne and Hastings and has endorsed the plans. The Eastbourne centre at the town's railway station opened in September 2009. The Hastings centre in the Hastings Station Plaza development is scheduled to open in June 2010.

### **Mental health**

#### **Improving mental health services**

Mental health strategies developed by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust over recent years have centred on improved access to mental health services. The strategies are now moving into implementation through an improvement programme under the banner 'Better by Design'. HOSC has supported the overall direction of the plans which are designed to enable people to maintain mental well-being, stay at work and avoid the need for more specialist care. HOSC will review specific proposals for changes to inpatient services which will be subject to public consultation during 2010.

### **Redevelopment of secure and forensic services at Hellingly, near Hailsham**

Proposals for new and converted secure and forensic facilities at Hellingly were examined by HOSC in November 2009 and endorsed in March 2010, following a positive response to consultation. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust plans to increase the number of medium secure beds to 60 (45 male, 15 female) and to have 15 low secure male beds. Capital investment will be £15.3 million. HOSC will monitor the service developments.

### **Support for patients and carers applying for Lasting Power of Attorney**

Actions being taken to improve the support and advice available on applying for Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) as a result of HOSC Task Group recommendations have been encouraging. Information on LPA has been widely distributed. East Sussex County Council Trading Standards are promoting the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme to local solicitors. The Office of the Public Guardian has introduced shorter and simpler forms for LPA applications and reduced the cost of registering from £150 to £120.

### **NHS dentistry**

HOSC continues to make regular checks on access to NHS dental services. Services are now available at 88 practices across East Sussex and the number of practices accepting new NHS patients has increased to 58. The number of practices with wheelchair access has increased to 53. The PCTs have undertaken a successful media campaign to increase awareness of how to find a dentist.

### **Cervical cancer schools vaccination programme**

The national school-based programme for the vaccination of girls aged 12-13 years against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV – a major contributory factor to cervical cancer) was initiated in September 2008. HOSC scrutinised the programme's performance in November 2009 to ensure it had been introduced effectively in East Sussex. Figures to October 2009 show 84% uptake in East Sussex Downs and Weald and 73% for Hastings and Rother for all 3 doses required. HOSC is maintaining a watchful eye on progress.

### **New treatment strategy for heart attacks**

HOSC considered proposals for a new treatment strategy for heart attacks in East Sussex, within the context of the wider strategy across Sussex. There will be a 24 hour, 7 days a week primary angioplasty service in East Sussex, Brighton and Portsmouth delivered within 120 minutes from the time the ambulance is called. The committee will be giving further consideration to the proposed service model for East Sussex during 2010.

### **Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust**

#### **Foundation Trust application**

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust is aiming to achieve Foundation Trust status by the Autumn of 2010. HOSC commented on the Trust's plans and gained assurance that the Trust Board would continue to meet in public if granted Foundation status.

## **Royal Sussex County Hospital development**

HOSC supported the Trust's plans for transforming the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton with a £420 million development under the banner 'Teaching, Trauma and Tertiary Care (3T) Programme'. Construction is scheduled to begin by Autumn 2010. HOSC will continue to receive reports at key stages in order to check progress.

## **East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust**

### **Foundation Trust application**

East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust is committed to becoming a Foundation Trust and the trust is expected to submit its application in the middle of 2010. HOSC received assurance that Board meetings would continue to be held in public.

### **Infection control strategy**

Following an outbreak of Clostridium Difficile (C Diff) at Eastbourne District General Hospital in January 2009, HOSC requested an analysis of the causes and the action being taken to minimise the risk of further outbreaks. HOSC welcomed the Trust's proactive response to contain the outbreak and the fact that the Infection Control Strategy had been enhanced based on lessons learnt. Infection rates have reduced considerably and the committee will monitor these to ensure progress is sustained.

## **South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust**

### **Foundation Trust application**

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAMB) is aiming to achieve Foundation Trust status by Autumn 2010. HOSC responded to SECAMB's public consultation, including requesting assurance that public Board meetings would continue.

### **Make ready depots**

SECAMB is continuing to roll out 'make ready' depots where ambulances are cleaned by infection control specialists and restocked. There is a make ready depot at Hastings and another one will open in Polegate by May 2011. The make ready system means that resources are concentrated at large depots and services can be delivered from a network of response posts which are aligned to patient demand. Speed of response is the key to good clinical outcomes. HOSC welcomed the plans based on the evidence of clear logistical advantages and improvements to patient safety.

## **Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

HOSC asked the Trust, which has already attained Foundation status, to consider holding its Board of Directors meetings in public to enhance transparency. In March 2010, HOSC welcomed the Trust's announcement that the meetings would be open to the public from April 2010, in addition to its Council of Governors meetings.

## **West Sussex 'Fit for the Future' health plans shelved**

Plans by NHS West Sussex to centralise three major services: inpatient paediatrics, consultant-led inpatient maternity services and emergency surgery – have been shelved. The Joint HOSC, formed to scrutinise these plans has been wound up as there are no longer any proposals constituting a substantial change to services for the committee's consideration. The Joint HOSC referred the original proposals to the Secretary of State for Health and, as the basis for this referral no longer applies, the referral was withdrawn.

## Introduction from the Chairman

When I look back over the breadth of work undertaken by HOSC during the year, I am amazed at how the committee managed to fit it all in! At the last count we had 25 different issues on the go, ranging from maternity through to stroke care and secure mental health services.

This capacity to scrutinise a raft of health issues of concern to East Sussex residents reflects not only the willingness of HOSC members but also the openness of our health and social care partners to alert HOSC to new developments, respond to calls for information, and to provide briefings. This process is managed by a small team of HOSC officers who give excellent support to the HOSC members.

May I also thank the many individuals who have responded to a HOSC request to contribute to reviews and attend the committee's meetings during the year.

I am confident that the committee's profile is continuing to rise. More and more, the committee is seen as an effective conduit for bringing strategic concerns to the attention of health and social care organisations and stimulating appropriate action.

Once again, scrutinising plans for maternity services consumed a good chunk of the committee's time this year. However, with the publication of a Maternity Services Strategy with broad support, the focus can now switch to implementation and HOSC can take a step back, monitoring progress in terms of the outcomes for local women and babies.

A number of other large scale projects have started this year and further work on these is likely to dominate our resources through the year. They include the proposals for improving mental health services and looking at aspects of the delivery of rural health services. This work is against a backdrop of increasing financial pressures, an ongoing focus on high quality care and a shift towards better prevention of ill health. The pressure is on organisations to transform services and improve partnership working to improve quality, boost efficiency and make better use of resources.

It will be crucial for HOSC to engage fully in these debates about the transformation of healthcare, consider the evidence for change, the needs of local people and respond with appropriate recommendations. I believe the committee is committed to this challenging task.

### HOSC Membership

Following the County Council elections in June 2009, Councillor Carolyn Heaps and Councillor Peter Pragnell joined HOSC. Mr Dave Rogers, Vice-Chair, Hastings and Rother Health and Social Care Forum joined HOSC as one of two voluntary organisation representatives. I am delighted to have Peter, Carolyn and Dave on board.

The following HOSC members stood down in June 2009: Councillors Beryl Healy and John Wilson, East Sussex County Council and Mr Ralph Chapman, Chairman, Age Concern East Sussex. I would like to thank them for their contributions during their membership of HOSC. Beryl and Ralph were two of HOSC's founder members and they have given over five years of excellent service. John joined the committee in June 2005 and he, too, became a stalwart of the committee.

I believe that HOSC is going from strength to strength. We have a packed work programme and we continue to strive to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.



**Councillor Sylvia Tidy**  
**Chairman, Health Overview**  
**and Scrutiny Committee**

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership March 2010

### **East Sussex County Council**

Councillor Sylvia Tidy

Chairman

Councillor David Rogers OBE

Vice Chairman

Councillor Carolyn Heaps

Councillor Philip Howson

Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe

Councillor Peter Pragnell

Councillor Barry Taylor

### **Eastbourne Borough Council**

Councillor Alex Hough

### **Hastings Borough Council**

Councillor Eve Martin

### **Lewes District Council**

Councillor Carolyn Lambert

### **Rother District Council**

Councillor Angharad Davies

### **Wealden District Council**

Councillor Diane Phillips

### **Voluntary services' representatives:**

Mr Dave Rogers

1 Vacancy

### **East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) representative:**

Janet Colvert, Chair, East Sussex LINK Core Group

## Maternity Services Strategy

The East Sussex Maternity Services Strategy 2009-2012 was endorsed by HOSC in November 2009 and the focus has now switched to implementation. The strategy provides for the continuation of consultant-led maternity services, special care baby services and in-patient gynaecology at both Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings as well as the further development of community midwifery services.

The strategy, developed by NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother in partnership with the service providers, is designed to deliver the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) recommendations as well as delivering aspects of the Government's 'Maternity Matters' initiative. The IRP recommendations informed the Secretary of State for Health's decision to reject the original proposals for maternity services in September 2008.

The development of the strategy has been a long journey, overseen by the Maternity Services Development Panel which is a large and diverse group with wide representation from stakeholders and an independent chair, Mr Richard Hallett. The Panel has worked in conjunction with a Clinicians Forum which was independently chaired by Professor Robert Shaw. The Forum helped develop a strategy for safe and sustainable services at the two hospitals by working through all the issues which originally suggested a two site model was not possible. The strategy is, therefore, not about maintaining the services unchanged as that would have been unsustainable. Instead, it is based on a 'network' model which ensures that the two maternity units work effectively with each other and with other neighbouring hospitals such as Brighton.



***'What has impressed me in scrutinising this process is the efforts made by the all the individuals and organisations involved to work towards a strategy they can all support. Now it's important to put this into action and see the benefits'***

Councillor Carolyn Heaps, East Sussex County Council (Eastbourne: Old Town)

The strategy covers the whole maternity care 'pathway' covering access to maternity care, antenatal care, birth and postnatal care. Key developments include changes to community midwife services so that mothers will be able to have direct access to a midwife, improved support to more vulnerable women and offering more choice over where and how to give birth.

HOSC has devoted significant resources over the past few years to scrutinising the development of maternity services. Now that a comprehensive strategy has been agreed and the focus has moved to implementation, the Committee has agreed to switch its focus to monitoring how successfully the strategy is delivering the intended benefits to women and babies. This approach will enable progress to be tracked, whilst enabling the Committee to devote more resources to other issues.



*'HOSC has learned that the maternity services budget is £20 million which is 2.3% of the total Primary Care Trusts' budget of £850 million. The committee has recognised the proportionality issue. While it is important to check that the PCTs are making sufficient progress on maternity services, HOSC has to ensure it scrutinises the whole of health in East Sussex especially given the financial pressures which will impact over the next few years.'*

Councillor Peter Pragnell, East Sussex County Council (Hastings: Ashdown and Conquest)

## Rural Health Services

This HOSC conference, held in Uckfield in November 2009, focused on how health services are planned, commissioned and delivered in rural East Sussex. It tackled some of the key challenges of providing health services in rural areas including accessibility, economies of scale, viability and quality. Delegates had the opportunity to feed back and suggest areas for attention. HOSC will explore a number of themes arising from the event through the Committee's ongoing work including: the capacity and activities of informal independent groups of rural residents; how to ensure rural issues are taken into account when planning services; and the role of technology in improving delivery of services to rural communities. HOSC particularly wants to be assured that targets set for health services do not inadvertently lead to poorer services for residents in rural areas.

Key note speakers at the event were: Jeremy Leggett, Chief Executive, Action in Rural Sussex; Alice Webster, Head of Unscheduled Care, East Sussex Community Health Services; and Mike Wood, Chief Executive, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother.

Vox pops on personal experiences of rural health services were presented by Val Young, East Sussex Local Involvement Network; Caroline Scotter, Action in Rural Sussex; Simone Oates, Occupational Therapist; Sue Davies, Senior Social Worker and Acting Team Leader, Hastings and Rother, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; Dr Clarissa Fabre, Buxted Surgery; and Dr Matt Bell, Bird in Eye Surgery, Uckfield.

In the afternoon small group discussions explored specific issues. The discussions employed the 'Scrutiny Café' technique where participants were able to share experiences as well as write their comments on tablecloths.



*'This event was a first for scrutiny and feedback has been excellent. Delegates got a lot from it, both from the formal session content and the informal opportunities to discuss issues with people from a range of health backgrounds.'*

Councillor David Rogers, Vice Chairman HOSC, East Sussex County Council (Newhaven and Ouse Valley West)

## Nutrition, hydration and feeding in hospitals review

This review has a particular focus on ensuring that acute hospitals which provide services to the people of East Sussex have policies and practices in place to ensure that patients are getting the right nutritional care and support to eat and drink.

The focus is on services supplied by East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust (ESHT) and Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH), as they service the vast majority of East Sussex residents. Initial information gathered showed that a number of initiatives are in place such as protected meal times, malnutrition screening and support for assisted eating, all of which aim to improve nutrition, hydration and feeding in the wards.

However, the Review Board wants to discover what hard evidence there is of policies, procedures and guidelines being put into practice. To help achieve this HOSC is working in partnership with the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. LINK representatives will undertake patient interviews and observation visits around meal times at acute hospitals serving East Sussex residents.



*'The Review Board sees the LINK visits as crucial to success of the review. Comparing the reality of the service at patient level to the collated reports and surveys received from the Trust will be a key component of the Board's evidence. We agree very much with Age Concern's assertion that a missed meal in hospital is just as much of a risk as missing medication for a patient's recovery. We want to ascertain how robust all the various protocols and initiatives are in practice.'*

Councillor Alex Hough, Eastbourne Borough Council (Upperton) and Chairman, Nutrition and Hydration Review Board.

The review started in September 2009 and is aiming to publish a report and recommendations in September 2010.

## Stroke services review

Improving stroke care in East Sussex is a priority and is the subject of both national and local strategies. The local strategy includes around 20 recommendations which emerged from the HOSC review of stroke care services, completed in 2008. Over 1,500 people in East Sussex suffered a stroke or mini-stroke (known as a TIA – Transient Ischaemic Attack) in 2007/08. The quarter July to September 2009 saw 155 people from NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and 95 people from NHS Hastings and Rother admitted to hospital following a stroke.

Actions underway include:

- Introducing 24/7 access to thrombolysis (clot-busting drugs) for appropriate patients
- Ensuring all stroke patients are admitted directly from Accident and Emergency to a specialist acute stroke unit
- Developing a Sussex-wide stroke register
- Developing a new service model for community rehabilitation
- Implementing vascular health checks

The implementation of the recommendations is being co-ordinated by a multi-agency Stroke Programme Board which includes HOSC representative Cllr Angharad Davies, who chaired HOSC's review



*'HOSC is pleased to note progress in the implementation of many of the Committee's recommendations but early treatment of stroke and stroke prevention measures must remain priorities. Stroke remains an important cause of death and serious disability.'*

Councillor Angharad Davies, Rother District Council (Crowhurst) and Chairman, Stroke Care Review Board.

## Health centres in Eastbourne and Hastings

NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother's plans for the development of two new GP-led health centres are coming to fruition. In March 2009, South East Health were awarded five year contracts to run centres in Eastbourne and Hastings. The developments are in response to the government's national commitment to establish at least 150 GP-led health-centres. These provide access to GP services on an 8am-8pm, 7 days a week basis for both registered and non-registered patients, and a walk-in service. The health centres are part of a wider programme of improving access to primary medical services which also includes extending existing GP practice opening hours. The Eastbourne centre in the town's railway station complex opened in November 2009.

The Hastings centre will be on the ground floor of the new Hastings Station Plaza Primary Health Care Centre and is scheduled to open in June 2010. South East Health will deliver the service in partnership with three local GPs. As well as the new health centre, Station Plaza will also provide accommodation for 5 local GP practices and offer a range of enhanced services including childhood immunisations, minor surgery, anti-coagulation monitoring, and sexual health services. A number of additional services will also be available, including cervical screening, maternity medical services, contraceptive services, vaccinations and immunisations. It is planned that Station Plaza Primary Health Care Centre will provide services for 20,000 patients per year.

In addition to Station Plaza, NHS Hastings and Rother has plans for a primary care centre in Upper St Leonards (Silverhill) by 2010 and in the Ore Valley by 2012. Consultation on these sites is underway.



*'HOSC was pleased to see the Eastbourne Centre up and running and looks forward to seeing the Station Plaza development open in June. These centres give people more flexibility and choice when they want to see someone for help and advice on health issues.'*

Janet Colvert, Chair, Core Group, East Sussex LINK

HOSC is continuing to scrutinise the health centre development strategy particularly their impact on local GPs. The committee will receive a detailed update in June 2010.

## Mental health services

### Improvement programme

In November 2009, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust discussed its 'Better by Design' programme with HOSC. The programme of improvements is designed to enable people to maintain mental well-being, stay at work and avoid the need for more specialist care. The plans include:

- Improved access pathways into mental health services
- Earlier intervention in the treatment of mental health conditions
- A wider range of community based services, closer to home and at home
- Reconfiguration of inpatient services
- Enhanced specialist services focusing on the needs of under-served people
- Broader services between hospital and home
- Fewer, better buildings

The first two years of Better by Design will focus on working age adult and older people's services starting with inpatient care for those of working age. In summary, the proposals suggest an overall reduction of around 100 inpatient beds across Sussex in tandem with the shift to more community based services.



*'Mental wellbeing is as important as physical health for the population of East Sussex. As many as one in four of us will have a mental health problem at some point in our lives and the demand for services continues to grow. The plans are particularly relevant in Hastings which, according to the latest government figures, has a higher than average number of people claiming incapacity benefit due to mental illness.'*

Dave Rogers, Vice-Chair, Hastings and Rother Health and Social Care Forum

HOSC has formed a Task Group to look into the inpatient proposals in more detail and the committee will respond later in 2010, taking into account the feedback from public consultation. HOSC will also consider the wider programme and associated developments as they evolve and closely monitor service changes to ensure the planned benefits are being realised.

### **Redevelopment of secure and forensic services at Hellingly, Near Hailsham**

In November 2009, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust briefed HOSC on proposals to develop the Trust's secure and forensic services. The proposals, part of the overarching Better by Design programme, were informed by national standards and drivers, such as optimum ward sizes, the increased mental health treatment of offenders in hospital rather than prison, and providing services 'closer to home'. Local issues include increasing demand, increased lengths of stay, high occupancy levels and the number of people who are placed with other, often out-of-county, providers.

The proposed £15.3 million redevelopment of services provided at Hellingly, East Sussex will:

- Bring the existing facility up to national quality and security standards
- Increase the number of secure and forensic inpatient beds available in East Sussex from the current 46 to 75 beds by building three new wards and converting existing accommodation.



*'HOSC believes these plans have a number of benefits. They will enable the Trust to bring the majority of out-of-county placements back in-county, and closer to their families. Also, the proposals will support growth in the local economy in the short term (through construction) and longer term (through increased workforce).'*

Councillor Barry Taylor, East Sussex County Council, (Eastbourne: Meads)

HOSC endorsed the plans based on the evidence of need and benefits, and taking into account the positive response from the public consultation.

## Services for treating people with dementia

HOSC requested a briefing on developments in dementia care in September 2009 in light of the publication of the first National Dementia Strategy early in 2009. The Committee wanted to assess how well placed local services are to meet the aims and best practice outlined in the national strategy, particularly given East Sussex's older and ageing population profile.

The joint briefing from NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald, NHS Hastings and Rother, Adult Social Care and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust mapped local progress against the 17 key objectives in the national strategy.

This demonstrated that a number of initiatives are underway to introduce and/or expand services designed to achieve good quality early diagnosis of dementia and intervention. These include: the introduction of three dementia advisors; screening for dementia; specialist home support services for adults with dementia; expansion of the older people's psychiatric liaison service; and improving support for people with dementia and their carers.

The development of community based assessment and intensive home support has significantly reduced inpatient bed stays for older people with dementia. This development along with the reduction and re-organisation of acute assessment beds was considered by a HOSC Task Group during 2008. The objective was to avoid unnecessary admissions to acute beds by intervening early and providing greater choice to service users and carers.



*'East Sussex is the county with the most elderly aged population and we need to ensure dementia services are in line with national best practice. HOSC is pleased to note that delivery of services for older people, not just dementia services, is a key strategic priority of the primary care trusts.'*

Councillor Diane Phillips, Wealden District Council (Crowborough West)

HOSC will continue to scrutinise the effectiveness of these initiatives.

## Support for patients and carers applying for Lasting Power of Attorney

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 for England and Wales provides a framework to empower and protect people who may lack capacity to make some decisions for themselves. It makes it clear who can take decisions in which situations, and how they should go about this. It also allows people to plan ahead for a time when they may lack capacity. The Act therefore concerns patients, carers and families, health and social care staff and other people who may come into contact with people who lack mental capacity.

The Public Guardian exists to protect people who lack capacity from abuse. The Office of the Public Guardian supports the Public Guardian's role and oversees the system of applying for a nominated person to have Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and thus be able to take decisions on behalf of someone who lacks mental capacity.

In March 2009, the HOSC Task Group established to examine aspects of the Mental Capacity Act reported back with recommendations on the support and advice available to individuals, families and carers in East Sussex when applying for LPA for someone lacking mental capacity.



*'I'm pleased with the positive response to the Task Group's recommendations. Applying for Lasting Power of Attorney is a complicated process and any moves to make it simpler, cheaper and more accessible are welcome.'*

Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe, East Sussex County Council (Lewes)

Responses to the recommendations have been encouraging. Information on the LPA has been widely distributed. East Sussex County Council Trading Standards are promoting the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme to local solicitors. The Office of the Public Guardian has introduced shorter and simpler forms for LPA applications and reduced the cost of registering from £150 to £120.

## New treatment strategy for heart attacks

Primary angioplasty offers more heart attack victims a better outcome than relying solely on thrombolysis (clot-busting drugs) if the operation can be carried out within 120 minutes from the time the ambulance is called. In November 2009, HOSC considered proposals for the provision of primary angioplasty in East Sussex, within the context of a wider strategy across Sussex. The Primary Angioplasty Options Appraisal Group recommended there should be a 24 hour, 7 days a week primary angioplasty service in East Sussex, Brighton and Portsmouth which could deliver the operation within 120 minutes. However, there are ongoing negotiations between East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust (ESHT), South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the PCTs to agree a model for the East Sussex service. ESHT propose a model of alternating care between the Conquest, Hastings and Eastbourne DGH whereas a mapping exercise has suggested that a single site, the Conquest, is the optimal from the logistical perspective.



*'HOSC welcomes the proposals for a 24/7 primary angioplasty service as it will provide better treatment for people of East Sussex who suffer a serious heart attack. However, HOSC recognised that the service must be viable and sustainable and in providing the right access some patients may have a slightly longer journey for treatment in order to achieve better outcomes.'*

Councillor Sylvia Tidy, Chairman HOSC, East Sussex County Council (Crowborough)

Approximately 110,000 people in England suffer a heart attack each year. In East Sussex there are around 400 early deaths per year due to heart disease and stroke.

HOSC will consider a report on the final configuration of the service in 2010.

## NHS dentistry

HOSC has made regular checks on access to NHS dentistry. The Committee has previously expressed concerns as to whether there was sufficient access in East Sussex, particularly for the most vulnerable, and whether health inequalities were being adequately addressed. HOSC has also raised concerns about the number of wheelchair accessible dental practices.

NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother have responded to these concerns. Services are now available at 88 practices across East Sussex and the number of practices accepting new NHS patients has increased to 58. The number of practices with wheelchair access has increased to 53. The PCTs have also undertaken a successful media campaign to increase awareness of how to find a dentist.



***'HOSC is pleased to see the progress being made on NHS dentistry services and the efforts being made to reduce inequalities and improve oral health.'***

Councillor Philip Howson, East Sussex County Council (Peacehaven and Telscombe Towns)

HOSC has also looked at the outcomes of the Department of Health review of NHS dentistry published in 2009. A new contract is expected to be used for newly established services, both in East Sussex and nationally, once national guidance has been issued. This is a forerunner to contractual changes expected as a result of the national review. The proposals from the review are currently being piloted by a small number of other PCTs working in conjunction with the Department of Health and will inform any longer-term changes to NHS general dental contracts.

HOSC also contributed to a review of Emergency Dental Services undertaken during 2009. The review aimed to assess how well the service was meeting the needs of the local population and the best way to organise the service in the future.

## **Cervical cancer schools vaccination programme**

In September 2008, Department of Health introduced a national HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination programme, to be implemented by local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). HPV is a major contributory factor to cervical cancer.

The vaccination programme was targeted at 12-13 year old girls, with a catch-up programme in the first few years for young women aged 17-18. By the end of the catch-up programme at the end of August 2011, all young women aged between 13 and 20 at that time will have been offered the vaccine. The Department of Health estimates that 400 lives per year cohort can be saved through vaccination.

HOSC requested a briefing on NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother's plans to implement the programme in November 2008 and reviewed the first year's implementation in November 2009. Figures to October 2009 show 84% uptake in East Sussex Downs and Weald and 73% for Hastings and Rother for all 3 doses. HOSC is maintaining a watchful eye on progress.



***'HOSC is encouraged by the uptake rate and will be watching to ensure this is sustained.'***

Cllr Eve Martin, Hastings Borough Council (Conquest)

Improving uptake remains a high priority for NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother and cervical screening is one of their key targets.

## Local Involvement Network (LINK)

East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) was established in April 2008 to replace Patient and Public Involvement Forums. Organisational support is provided by East Sussex Disability Association (ESDA). LINKs have been set up across the country to help communities influence the way health and social care services are delivered. The LINK's work programme is developed and managed by the LINK Core Group which is made up of 10 individuals elected by LINK participants plus 6 representatives of voluntary and community organisations.

Janet Colvert, Chair of the LINK Core Group is the nominated LINK representative who sits on HOSC.



*'HOSC has built a strong partnership with East Sussex LINK. The joint work with East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove LINKs where LINK representatives are surveying nutrition services in hospital wards is a prime example of this.'*

Cllr Carolyn Lambert, Lewes District Council (Seaford Central) and East Sussex County Council

## Joint HOSC on West Sussex 'Fit for the Future' proposals

The Joint HOSC set up to investigate Fit for the Future hospital proposals was wound up in November 2009 following the NHS decision to keep hospital services as they are. NHS West Sussex Board agreed to retain consultant-led maternity, inpatient paediatrics and emergency surgery at both St Richard's Hospital in Chichester and Worthing Hospital. It also agreed to keep consultant-led maternity services at the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. The decision followed a review into services after the merger of the St Richard's and Worthing Hospital Trusts earlier in the year.

The Joint HOSC was set up to scrutinise the Fit for the Future hospital proposals and was made up of representatives from West Sussex County Council and neighbouring authorities including East Sussex County Council.



*'It's been a long process and a time of uncertainty for many mothers in the west of the county. As such, the Joint HOSC agreed that NHS West Sussex needs to work to rebuild public confidence in hospital services. We've also welcomed the commitment from NHS West Sussex to learn from the lessons of the Fit for the Future process and public consultation and apply these in any future consultation they need to do.'*

Councillor David Rogers, Vice Chairman, HOSC, East Sussex County Council (Newhaven and Ouse Valley West)

## HOSC communications

HOSC is committed to an ongoing programme of communication about its activities. The website and webcast of meetings is supported by a quarterly newsletter which is sent out electronically. Paper copies are still available on demand. News releases about key activities are distributed and these are picked up by the local media for broadcast or print.

HOSC meetings have been broadcast live on the internet since November 2006 and are proving increasingly popular as more and more people log on to watch and listen to the debate live and subsequently. The HOSC website ([www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)) records between 9,000 and 12,000 visits per month.

# Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Officers

March 2010



## **East Sussex County Council**

Claire Lee, Scrutiny Lead Officer  
Angela Reid, Head of Legal Services

## **Eastbourne Borough Council**

Ian Fitzpatrick, Senior Head of Community

## **Hastings Borough Council**

Katrina Strong, Scrutiny Officer

## **Lewes District Council**

Tim Albright, Environmental Health Manager

## **Rother District Council**

Brenda Mason, Head of Policy and Performance

## **Wealden District Council**

Jeremy Leach, Public Health Development Manager

## **Officer moves**

In September 2009, Lisa Schrevel took over from Claire Lee as lead officer on HOSC while Claire went on a six month secondment to the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Claire returned to the County Council in February 2010 and Lisa resumed her role of Partnership Development Manager in the County Council's Community Partnerships Team.

Sam White, Scrutiny Support Officer left the County Council in February 2010 after supporting HOSC since the committee's inception in 2003.

In September 2009, Tim Albright, Environmental Health Manager succeeded Ian Kedge, Head of Environment and Health as the HOSC liaison officer for Lewes District Council.

In December 2009, Ian Fitzpatrick, Senior Head of Community succeeded Neil Fuller, Director of Housing, Health & Community Services as the HOSC liaison officer for Eastbourne Borough Council.

## Finance

### HOSC finance statement

#### Expenditure for 2009/10

Officer support to HOSC: programme development and liaison with key partners in health, Adult Social Care, Local Involvement Network (LINK), voluntary organisations etc	£18,500
Scrutiny reviews: project management and support	£15,000
Patient and public engagement activities and commissioned research	£ 6,000
Website maintenance/communications including four newsletters and annual report	£ 5,400
Webcasting of HOSC meetings	£ 2,500
Officer support for Chairman and individual Member scrutiny activities	£ 7,000
Rural Health Event: logistical arrangements and officer support	£ 5,500
Legal advice to HOSC	£ 2,500
Meeting room hire, audio visual kit hire, travel expenses and refreshments	£ 2,100
Other stationery and printing	£ 1,500
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£66,000</b>

#### Funded by

East Sussex County Council (7 Seats)	£38,300
East Sussex district and borough council contributions (5 seats)	£27,700
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£66,000</b>

**East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Room C6F, County Hall, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SW**

**Telephone:** 01273 481581  
**Fax:** 01273 481208  
**Email:** [healthscrutiny@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:healthscrutiny@eastsussex.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)