

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **19th March 2008**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Equitable access to primary care – development of Primary Care Centres in Eastbourne and Hastings**

Purpose of report: **To update on progress with plans for new GP-led health centre services in Eastbourne and Hastings and to consider specific issues in relation to the Station Plaza Primary Care Centre in Hastings.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

- 1. Consider and comment on progress with the development of GP-led health centres in Hastings and Eastbourne.**
  - 2. Support the reorganisation of services into the Station Plaza Primary Care Centre in Hastings.**
  - 3. Consider and comment on the proposed approach to communications and involvement in relation to the Station Plaza Primary Care Centre.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 Lord Darzi, in his *Interim Report* of August 2007 (*Next Stage Review of the NHS*) gave a commitment to establishing at least 150 GP-led health-centres (one in each Primary Care Trust (PCT) area). These would 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 national programme of improving access to primary medical services, which also includes extending existing GP practice opening hours.

1.2 Each local PCT was given the responsibility for procuring the new health centre for its area through a process of competitive tendering. The contract was to be offered for an initial term of five years. The Department of Health specified that the contracts for the new health centres should be awarded by 31 December 2008, with service commencement following as soon as possible after this date - generally by April 2009.

### **2. Implementation in East Sussex**

2.1 In East Sussex it was decided by NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother (the East Sussex PCTs), in consultation with stakeholders, that centres would be located in Eastbourne (within one of the most deprived wards in the town – Devonshire) and Hastings (integrated into the new Primary Care Centre being developed as part of the Station Plaza scheme). A specific location within Devonshire ward for the Eastbourne centre was not identified prior to the tendering process. Instead bidders were invited to propose locations in their tenders.

2.2 The PCTs undertook the process of procuring providers of GP-led health centres during Autumn/Winter 2008. Details of the procurement process were shared with HOSC in September 2008. In February 2009 it was announced that the contracts to run both centres had been awarded to South East Health. South East Health is a not for profit organisation with over 500 GP members and it already provides the local out of hours GP service.

2.3 The PCTs previously indicated to HOSC that the Station Plaza development was scheduled to be completed in December 2009. It was hoped that the Eastbourne centre would be operational around the April 2009 preferred date but it was felt that this was a very tight timescale.

2.4 An update paper has been supplied by NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother and is attached at appendix 1.

### **3. Specific issues in relation to Station Plaza Primary Care Centre, Hastings**

3.1 The Station Plaza development in Hastings will provide new accommodation for 6 existing GP practices and a range of enhanced services, as well as the new GP-led health centre service run by South East Health. NHS Hastings and Rother has supplied a further paper (attached at appendix 2) which updates HOSC about the plans to centralise services within the new primary care centre and the likely impact on existing services which will be relocating, resulting in a change in the location where people access health services.

3.2 HOSC was first informed about this and other primary care centre developments in Hastings in December 2005. At that time, the Committee acknowledged the benefits of the proposed approach and welcomed the developments. The PCT's paper asks HOSC to continue to support this service reorganisation as being in the best interests of the people of Hastings and to agree the indicative approach to communication and involvement outlined.

### **4. Areas for HOSC to explore**

4.1 John Vesely, Head of Primary Care and Dr Anna Barnes, Primary Care Business Change Manager of the Station Plaza Project Team, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother and Simon Lawrence, Director of Development from South East Health will be attending HOSC to present the papers and take questions. HOSC members may wish to explore these issues:

#### **4.2 GP-led health centres in Eastbourne and Hastings**

- How South East Health will be working with existing local GP practices to develop the centres.
- What opportunities there will be for further patient and public involvement in the design of the centres and their services.
- Progress on identifying the Eastbourne site in Devonshire ward.
- The timescales for opening the two centres and the level of confidence that these will be achieved.
- The key features of South East Health's successful tenders and the way they see the services operating.

#### **4.3 Extended GP opening hours (across East Sussex)**

- Update on how the extension of existing GP practice opening hours is progressing.

#### **4.4 Station Plaza plans**

- The potential benefits and impacts of the relocation of services on patients.
- Whether the proposed approach to communication and involvement is sufficient and covers all necessary groups.
- The plans for a hub and spoke model for sexual health services and the timescales for developing the 'spokes' in Ore and St Leonards.