

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

Date: **20th November 2009**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Building Better Secure and Forensic Services in East Sussex – capital development programme**

Purpose of report: **To present HOSC with Building Better Secure and Forensic Services in Sussex setting out a proposals for new and converted facilities at Hellingly, East Sussex**

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to:

- 1. Consider and comment on the proposals for Secure and Forensic Services and the impact they will have on East Sussex service users and residents**
 - 2. Determine how the committee wishes to monitor the development of the proposals and associated public consultation**
-

1. Background

1.1 Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPT) had put forward proposals on developing the Trust's Secure and Forensic Services for the residents of East Sussex.

1.2 The proposals have been 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.

1.3 These proposals are part of the Trust's long term service improvement programme, *Better by Design* which aims to improve upon existing standards for mental health provision across Sussex and develop a range of services that will meet people's mental health needs in the future, whilst meeting financial responsibilities in a difficult economic climate.

2. Secure and Forensic Service proposals

2.1 *Building Better Secure and Forensic Services in Sussex* (attached at Appendix 1) sets out the case for the redevelopment of services provided at Hellingly, East Sussex to:

- Bring the existing facility up to national quality and security standards
- Increase the number of low and medium secure beds available in Sussex from the current 68 to 120 beds. Including the 38 beds SPT commissions from other providers, the total bed numbers currently available in Sussex is 114.

2.2 Bed numbers at Hellingly, East Sussex would increase from the current 46 to 75. Within East Sussex the proposals state that increasing bed numbers at Hellingly would reflect current levels of demand and enable the Trust to bring the majority of out-of-county placements back in-county, and closer to their families.

2.3 Current levels of demand, future projections and research into levels of provision has been used to inform proposals on bed numbers and security levels. National drivers, such as improved care provision for women, have informed proposals on ward configurations.

2.4 The proposed expansion will be achieved by constructing a building on open space adjacent to and linked by new shared facilities to an existing building (Ashen Hill), and the conversion of another existing building (Southview). It is currently envisaged that construction will take approximately 89 weeks.

2.5 Total estimated investment for the programme is £15.3 million. As well as developing modern facilities, SPT state that the proposals will support growth in the local economy in the short term (through construction) and longer term (through increased workforce).

2.5 SPT has suggested an approach to pre-consultation, public consultation and consultation feedback on proposals. Public consultation would run for 8 weeks from December 2009 to January 2010. Some consultation has already taken place including discussions with service users and meetings with Wealden District Council planning officers and local councillors.

2.6 HOSC is being asked to comment on the development and consultation plans.

3. Issues to consider

3.1 *Building Better Secure and Forensic Services in Sussex* is anticipated to result in changes to secure and forensic mental health provision within East Sussex, and may impact on provision in other parts of Sussex.

3.2 Christine Bowman, Deputy Director - Strategic Development & Capital Projects Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will give an overview of the redevelopment of Secure and Forensic Services based at Hellingly in East Sussex. Russell Hackett, Director of Business Development, Andrew Dean, Service Director Secure and Forensic Services and Maggie Gardner, Project Development, Hellingly site, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will be in attendance.

3.3 HOSC may wish to consider:

- Whether *Building Better Secure and Forensic Services in Sussex* represents a change to services and/or service delivery within East Sussex and for East Sussex residents
- What impact will the proposed capital developments have on quality of care
- How does HOSC wish to be consulted on the development and implementation of the proposals in the context of the timeframes set out
- The status on planning permission
- What are HOSCs views on the plans for public consultation including:
 - Outcomes of discussions with Wealden District Council
 - How many service users will be affected
 - Whether all appropriate groups and audiences are included in the consultation plan
 - How users of services are being involved in the development of the service model
 - How front-line staff are being involved
 - Whether appropriate methods are being used to inform the public of developments
 - How groups who may be harder to reach are being informed and engaged
 - Whether the proposed 8 week consultation period is adequate
- How does HOSC want to consider the results of public consultations and subsequent responses

ANDREW OGDEN
Director of Law and Personnel

Contact officer: Lisa Schrevel, Scrutiny Lead Officer
Telephone: 01273 481327