

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

Date: **23 March 2007**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Fit for the Future in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove**

Purpose of report: **To update HOSC on the progress of 'Fit for the Future' in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. To consider whether forthcoming proposals for changes to NHS services in West Sussex are likely to constitute a substantial variation to services for East Sussex residents and therefore require HOSC to participate in a joint HOSC to examine these proposals.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the status of the Fit for the Future programme in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove.**
  - 2. Agree that, based on the information supplied by West Sussex Primary Care Trust, the forthcoming proposals for change in West Sussex are likely to represent a substantial variation to services for East Sussex residents.**
  - 3. Delegate authority to the Chairman to agree, in consultation with HOSC, the terms of reference and membership of any joint HOSC formed to examine these proposals.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 In parallel with the East Sussex 'Fit for the Future' process, the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have also been undertaking similar reviews of their services with the intention of developing proposals for changing the pattern of services where this is considered to be necessary. West Sussex and Brighton and Hove PCTs may undertake a joint process of consultation and decision making because there are close links between services in the two areas, particular in terms of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust which has hospital sites in both Brighton and West Sussex.

1.2 A press release issued by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority in conjunction with the Sussex PCTs on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 confirmed that the proposals for change in West Sussex/Brighton and Hove will be published later than those in East Sussex, and not before the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 local elections. A date for the start of consultation has not been confirmed.

1.3 Although specific proposals for change have not yet been published for public consultation, West Sussex PCT has supplied information to East Sussex HOSC about the likely impact of the proposals under consideration in West Sussex on East Sussex residents. This information should enable HOSC to decide whether or not the forthcoming proposals are likely to represent a substantial variation to services for East Sussex residents.

### **2. Proposals under consideration**

2.1 West Sussex PCT states that it is considering the option of a single Major General Hospital in West Sussex, supported by a network of care including Local General Hospitals. Local General Hospitals would potentially undertake outpatients, diagnostics, elective (planned) daycase procedures, routine elective inpatient cases, acute 'step-down' care and have a midwife-led birthing unit and an urgent care centre. Local General Hospitals would **not** have a high

dependency/intensive care unit, accident and emergency unit, emergency admissions or emergency surgery.

2.2 The PCT has supplied data on the number of East Sussex residents currently using the hospital services in West Sussex which may be subject to change. East Sussex residents use services provided at the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Haywards Heath (part of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust) and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals Trust (WaSH).

2.3 The annual figures for East Sussex residents using each trust are as follows:

	WaSH	PRH
Elective admissions	44	1,350
Emergency admissions (including maternity)	77	1,307
Other	Included in figures above	284
Total	121	2941

2.4 The PCT have confirmed that none of the scenarios they are considering for the future configuration of services include the Princess Royal Hospital as a Major General Hospital. This means that any options put forward for consultation are likely to include significant change to the range of services provided at the Princess Royal.

2.5 East Sussex residents also use services provided at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton (also part of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust). No detailed information is yet available about potential changes to services in Brighton as a result of Fit for the Future. However, previous communications from the PCTs have indicated that significant changes are not envisaged.

2.6 Liz Tatlow, Programme Director for Fit for the Future in West Sussex, will attend HOSC to clarify any aspects of this information if necessary.

### **3. Consultation with HOSC**

3.1 As outlined in agenda item 5a, under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 NHS bodies have a statutory duty to consult the relevant HOSC(s) on any proposal to make substantial variation or development to the provision of services.

3.2 The information supplied by West Sussex PCT, and HOSC's agreed framework on the type of service changes which require formal consultation (available on the HOSC website) indicate that the PCT's proposals are likely to represent a substantial variation to services for East Sussex residents, particularly those in the Lewes and Wealden district areas.

3.3 Where proposals impact on residents in more than one local authority area, the NHS must consult with all HOSCs which consider the proposals to represent a substantial variation, and a joint HOSC must be formed for the purposes of responding to the consultation.

3.4 In the case of the West Sussex proposals, the PCT will also be discussing their plans with Brighton and Hove, Hampshire, Portsmouth and Surrey HOSCs to determine whether or not there may be a substantial impact on those areas. The decisions of these HOSCs, and East Sussex HOSC will determine which committees will need to participate in a joint committee with West Sussex HOSC.

3.5 The terms of reference and constitution of the joint HOSC will need to be determined once it has been established which HOSCs will be participating and when the proposals for change have been published by the PCTs. Therefore, HOSC is asked to delegate authority to the Chairman, in consultation with HOSC, to make these arrangements at the appropriate time.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 1) To note the status of the Fit for the Future programme in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove.**
- 2) To agree that, based on the information supplied by West Sussex Primary Care Trust, the forthcoming proposals for change in West Sussex are likely to represent a substantial variation to services for East Sussex residents.**
- 3) To delegate authority to the Chairman to agree, in consultation with HOSC, the terms of reference and membership of any joint HOSC formed to examine these proposals.**

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