



Health Scrutiny in East Sussex Newsletter

No. 014 April 2007

*This newsletter is produced by East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and provides an update on the progress made with Health Scrutiny in East Sussex.*

## **Special 'Fit for the Future' Edition**

# **Are the health proposals fit for you and your baby's future?**



East Sussex Primary Care Trusts' (PCTs) 'Fit for the Future' proposals for the future configuration of health services in the county have been published and public consultation started on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. The consultation sets out the vision for healthcare in East Sussex, from community services through to more complex hospital based care. Within this the PCTs have stated their commitment to the future of both Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings including emergency care services at both sites.

The main specific proposals for change outlined in the consultation relate to services for childbirth, special baby care and inpatient gynaecology. The PCTs have put forward four options, but confirmed to HOSC that they will look at any alternative options put forward during the consultation and assess these in the same way as their own proposals.

As part of the consultation process, the PCTs must consult with HOSC and the process began when the proposals were formally presented to the committee in March. The committee has a duty to respond with its view on the proposals, with a particular focus on two key questions:

- Are the proposals the best way forward for health services in East Sussex?
- Has the consultation process with the public and HOSC been adequate?

HOSC is committed to a full, balanced examination of the available evidence, and consideration of the range of opinion on the proposals before formulating its response to the PCTs shortly after the close of public consultation, which ends on 27 July 2007.

HOSC is organising a series of evidence gathering meetings around the county where we are inviting key individuals and organisations to give their perspective on the proposals and to answer questions from HOSC members on specific elements.

### **HOSC evidence gathering meetings**

**2pm to 5pm Thursday 17 May 2007, Gold Room, Winter Garden, Eastbourne**

**3pm to 7pm Thursday 7 June, 2007, Sussex Hall, White Rock Theatre, Hastings**

**10am to 1pm Friday 22 June 2007, Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes**

**10am to 1pm Wednesday 25 July 2007, Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes**

Further details on the programme for these meetings will be available nearer the time on the HOSC website [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)

### **Want to come to a meeting?**

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings to listen to the evidence and discussion. If you are planning on coming, please contact Sam White on 01273 481581 or email: [sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk) This will help us with seating arrangements.

### **Got a question?**

It is not possible for members of the public to participate in the discussion but if there are particular questions which you think should be asked, please send these in to Sam White by email or post to him at East Sussex County Council, Room C6F, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SW.



## **‘Fit for the Future’ in West Sussex**

West Sussex PCT’s ‘Fit for the Future’ proposals for health services and the timing of their consultation programme have still to be confirmed. HOSC believes that the plans will be a substantial variation to services used by East Sussex residents which means that HOSC will need to be consulted about the proposals when they are announced. People in the western part of the county have a significant interest in the proposals – in particular any plans for Brighton hospitals and the Princess Royal Hospital. West Sussex PCT told HOSC that they will hold consultation meetings in the Lewes area so that local people can give their views.

## **Fewer delayed transfers**



The latest figure on delayed transfers of care (DTCs) is under 40 compared to an average of 74 during 2005/6. The number of DTCs due to social care reasons is now minimal and has dropped to as low as 1. HOSC is pleased to note the marked improvement and recognises that ongoing work in partnership between Health and Adult Social Care is helping to sort out the complexities surrounding DTCs.

In many cases the key is ensuring the availability of the right type of care. The range and availability of community care services needs to be developed, together with a broader range of initiatives to prevent admission to hospital. A further

shift towards prevention is planned over the next three to five years.

HOSC will continue to monitor the status of DTCs. The target is for there to be no more than 20 DTCs.

## **Annual Health Check**

The Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check process is upon us again. All NHS organisations have to submit a self-assessment against the national ‘Standards for Better Health’. As part of the process HOSC will comment on the county’s organisations’ performance against the most relevant standards based on evidence gathered during the year. These comments will be sent to the individual NHS organisations.

## **Homefield Place, Seaford**

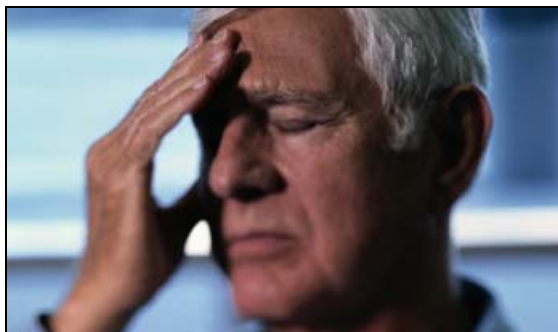
HOSC is concerned about the lack of consultation with the local community on plans for Homefield Place. It is pursuing this with Lisa Rodrigues, Chief Executive, Sussex Partnership Trust to ensure that lessons are learnt. Acute assessment in-patient beds provided by the trust at Homefield Place were closed at the end of March 2007. This is in line with shift from bed based provision to community based care recommended by national guidance, but HOSC believes more could have been done to communicate and consult on the changes effectively.

## **Where were you at the last HOSC meeting?**

Don’t worry if you missed the meeting, you can see the recording on the internet on the HOSC website:

[www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)

## A long time ill



HOSC has been looking at the treatment and services for people who live with a long term condition such as diabetes, stroke or dementia. 5% of NHS patients have long term conditions and use some 42% of NHS resources.

The original PCT programme called Transforming Chronic Care has now been superseded by an East Sussex wide Long Term Conditions Steering Group. The group's aim is to further develop, lead and monitor a long term conditions strategy across the county. HOSC is keeping a watching brief on the group's work and notes the PCTs' desire to improve care and quality of life and prevent deterioration of people's health where possible.

---

## Personnel

**Richard Partridge**, HOSC legal adviser since the committee's formation in October 2003, has retired from East Sussex County Council after 28 years service. Richard was one of the HOSC founding officers and his expert and pragmatic legal advice has been much appreciated by HOSC members. Everybody wishes him well and hopes he thoroughly enjoys and relishes his retirement.

**Angela Reid**, Head of Legal Services succeeds Richard as HOSC's legal adviser. HOSC members and officers welcome Angela on board and look forward to working with her. Her experience will be invaluable.

### HOSC 2006/2007

East Sussex County Council:

**Cllr Bob Lacey OBE** Chairman  
**Cllr David Rogers OBE** Vice Chairman  
**Cllr Beryl Healy**  
**Cllr Philip Howson**  
**Cllr Carl Maynard**  
**Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe**  
**Cllr John Wilson**

Eastbourne Borough Council

**Cllr Anne Angel**

Hastings Borough Council

**Cllr Eve Martin**

Lewes District Council

**Cllr Ralph Taylor**

Rother District Council

**Cllr Christopher Starnes**

Wealden District Council

**Cllr Diane Phillips**

Voluntary services' representatives:

**Mr Ralph Chapman**

Chairman, Age Concern East Sussex

**Mrs Rosemary Iddenden**

Branch Manager, Alzheimer's Society

---

### Contact:

Claire Lee, Scrutiny Lead Officer  
East Sussex County Council  
Room C6F, County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent, Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1SW

Tel: 01273 481327

Email: [claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:claire.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk)

East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) 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