



*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.*

## **On the evidence trail**



HOSC kicked off its 'Fit for the Future' evidence gathering programme on 17<sup>th</sup> May in Eastbourne. Committee members questioned a range of witnesses on East Sussex Primary Care Trusts' (PCTs) proposals for the future configuration of health services in the county. The discussion centred on the main specific proposals for change outlined in the consultation relating to services for childbirth, special baby care and inpatient gynaecology.

### **'Option 5' proposal**

First up were a team from the 'Option 5' proposal. This proposal has been developed by the Save the DGH and Hands off the Conquest Campaigns. Vincent Argent, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and Medical Adviser outlined the proposal. He was supported by Nigel Waterson MP, Margaret Williams, Chair, Hands off the Conquest Campaign, Liz Walke and Monica Corrina-Kavalki, Co-Chairs, Save the DGH Campaign.

'Option 5' centres on keeping consultant led medium risk maternity units in Eastbourne and Hastings. The PCTs have set up a working group with an independent chair to assess the proposal. This will include evaluation of staffing, safety and affordability aspects.

### **Maternity needs assessment**

The maternity needs assessment maps out the projected births in East Sussex and takes into account such aspects as population (including migration), deprivation, housing developments and access to services. This work helps the PCTs plan future services.

Dr Diana Grice, Director of Public Health, East Sussex PCTs and East Sussex County Council and Dr Sarah Nicholls, Specialist Registrar in Public Health advised HOSC that the number of births is forecast to decrease in East Sussex, despite the latest figures showing the highest number of births was last year (2006/7) when there were over 4,000 at East Sussex hospitals. There is greater deprivation amongst Hastings women of childbearing age compared with Eastbourne women and there is a reduced ability to access services in the Hastings population.

### **South East Coast Ambulance Trust perspective**

Andy Newton, Clinical Director and Consultant Paramedic and James Pavey, Senior Operations Manager answered questions on a range of issues including ambulance emergency transfer journey times between Eastbourne and Hastings, ambulance staff obstetric training and ambulance capacity. HOSC will analyse data on transfer times between Eastbourne and Hastings and the Trust's additional capacity needs if there were to be a single site for obstetrics. It will also review national guidelines on emergency transfers between hospitals.

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

Des Holden, Divisional Clinical Director, Special Services (includes responsibility for obstetrics) said that his trust was involved in discussions with all the PCTs in Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex on how to create maternity unit capacity in Brighton. Health organisations recognise the need for a joined up network of services for the whole area - in particular access to neonatal care where there is a limited number of cots.

Plans for Princess Royal hospital are not ready for consultation but any changes in maternity services are likely to impact on East Sussex.

### **East Sussex PCTs**

Nick Yeo, Chief Executive and Michael Wilson, Programme Director for 'Fit for the Future' answered questions on 'Fit for the Future' proposals. The PCTs clinical working group has looked at the two site model and how maternity services could be provided in the future. On balance, a single site option was preferred for consultant led care - primarily due to staffing concerns. The working group is now doing further work which includes looking further at staffing patterns and also different maternity models in other parts of the country.

The PCTs appraisal of 'Option 5' will be published before the end of the consultation and a process has been established for the appraisal. Campaign groups have a role in this. The 'Option 5' proposal is being assessed against the same parameters of the PCTs options 1-4 and they are committed to exploring any other proposals which emerge through the consultation. If the PCTs conclude 'Option 5' is sustainable, this will be put to the board along with the other options.

The financial implications of the proposals are being refined but none of the options reduce costs. The PCTs are working with the Hospitals Trust to resolve the issue of funding the increased costs of the services in future. National decisions on the 'tariff' for maternity care will need to be factored in to the discussion. Capital costs of the PCTs proposals are being refined but they are estimated to be in the region of £1 - £1.5 million.

### **Future HOSC evidence gathering meetings.**

**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**

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June will focus on clinical aspects of 'Fit for the Future' proposals.

Witnesses include:

- **Dr Greg Wilcox**, GP and Chair, Hastings and Rother PCT Professional Executive Committee (PEC)
- **Dr John Clarke**, GP, Eastbourne
- **Richard Hallett** – Co-Chair, East Sussex Maternity Services Liaison Committee User Group
- **Jamal Zaidi**, Clinical Director for Women's Health Services, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
- **Debra Young**, Head of Midwifery, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
- **Trish Dockfield**, Regional Officer, Royal College of Midwives

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)

### Would you like to come to a meeting?

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings to listen to the evidence and discussion. If you plan to come, 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.

### Have you 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.

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. This is likely to be in September 2007.

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## New HOSC chairman



Cllr Syliva Tidy has been nominated by the County Council to chair HOSC, taking over from Cllr Bob Lacey who has become Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Tidy said, 'I am very fortunate to have inherited such a strong legacy from Cllr Lacey's excellent leadership and I am committed to working with all HOSC members to build on the considerable progress made under his stewardship.'

I am fully aware of the challenging agenda HOSC is currently engaged in and I've hit the ground running to ensure we continue to engage effectively with the NHS on the 'Fit for the Future' consultation.'

Previously, Cllr Tidy was Chairman of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. She has been East Sussex councillor for Crowborough since May 2005.

## Au revoir, Bob



Cllr Lacey said, 'I am immensely proud of what we have achieved through HOSC over the past two years. HOSC is well respected by our partners

in the NHS and has increased its visibility to the people of East Sussex, ensuring that their voice is represented.'

Cllr Tidy said, 'HOSC members and I wish Bob every success in his new role. He's a tough act to follow and I am relishing the challenge of building on his achievements and ensuring HOSC continues to thrive.'

## New HOSC members

Following the local elections in May, new members have joined HOSC. These are:

### **Cllr Barry Taylor**

East Sussex County Council

### **Cllr Alex Hough**

Eastbourne Borough Council

### **Cllr Carolyn Lambert**

Lewes District Council

Cllr Tidy said, 'The new members and I are looking forward to working on HOSC and continuing to build on its reputation for taking a constructive, informed and balanced approach to considering health issues which affect residents across our county.'



Cllr Taylor

Cllr Hough

Cllr Lambert

## Moving on....

HOSC members who stood down are Cllr Anne Angel, Eastbourne Borough Council, Cllr Carl Maynard, East Sussex County Council, and Cllr Ralph Taylor, Lewes District Council.



Cllr Angel

Cllr Maynard

Cllr Taylor

Cllr Tidy said, 'Joining HOSC I can immediately see how effective it is. I would like to thank Anne, Ralph and Carl for their considerable contributions over the past two years.'

## HOSC 2006/2007

East Sussex County Council:

**Cllr Sylvia Tidy** Chairman  
**Cllr David Rogers OBE** Vice Chairman  
**Cllr Beryl Healy**  
**Cllr Philip Howson**  
**Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe**  
**Cllr Barry Taylor**  
**Cllr John Wilson**

Eastbourne Borough Council

**Cllr Alex Hough**

Hastings Borough Council

**Cllr Eve Martin**

Lewes District Council

**Cllr Carolyn Lambert**

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

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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

Recordings of HOSC meetings can be seen on the internet. Go to the HOSC website: [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)