



Health Scrutiny in East Sussex Newsletter

No. 004

This newsletter provides an update on the progress made with health scrutiny arrangements in East Sussex.

All Saints closure final report

The HOSC has given a cautious welcome to how the re-provisioning plans for the closure of All Saints Hospital have been implemented. In its final report, the HOSC described the closure as being managed 'with sensitivity and thoroughness'. However, the report also stressed that a lot of work is still to be done to ensure that patients receive a high quality of care. HOSC's involvement in the re-provisioning plans following the closure of All Saints has shown exactly how the committee can help ensure that residents – and the quality of services available to them – remain everybody's top priority. The HOSC remains committed to overseeing the re-provisioning plans and will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that first class services for older people are delivered across the whole region.

The full report is available on the HOSC website: www.eastsussexhealth.org
(If you would like a paper copy, please contact Sam White on (01273) 481581)

Substantial variation

Chief Executives of the PCTs and NHS Trusts in East Sussex have been working with the HOSC to establish what constitutes a 'substantial development of

variation' as the legislation empowering health overview and scrutiny requires all NHS bodies consult the HOSC on all matters which fall into this category. What constitutes a 'substantial development' or 'variation' is not defined, but the guidance on overview and scrutiny of health recommends that local NHS organisations should aim to reach a local understanding or definition and that this should be informed by discussions with other key stakeholders such as Patient and Public Involvement Forums.

The draft guidance has been developed and this is now with stakeholders for consultation and comment. The HOSC hopes to agree the document with NHS organisations by September 2004.

Alcohol, tobacco, drugs and substance misuse review



The overall picture emerging from this review of local arrangements is positive.

The recommendations in our report are likely to include short term funding, the

balance of spending on alcohol and tobacco misuse compared with substance misuse, partnership and county-wide working, smoke free public places and licensing policy.

The draft report is out for consultation with stakeholders and the final report will be presented to the HOSC in September.

Patient choice – second stage



The second phase of the project will examine:

- GP appointment systems – how they work, whether they fail and how they could be improved;
- Meeting targets for access – where they work, where they fail and what action is taken out-of-hours – monitoring the new scheme by encouraging feedback from patients and professionals;
- The role of the PCT and the role of Patient and Public Involvement Forums in performance monitoring.

Information will mainly be gathered through a questionnaire distributed through a representative sample of East Sussex GP practices and the local media.

The preliminary report is available on the HOSC website:

www.eastsussexhealth.org

(If you would like a paper copy, please contact Sam White on (01273) 481581)

Carers review underway

At the last meeting of HOSC on 15 June 2004, it was agreed to undertake a review of carers. The review will concentrate on the following areas:

- Carers' assessment
- Access to respite care
- Hospital discharge issues
- GPs identification of carers
- Young carers

The review is expected to be completed by early 2005. The Project Board comprises Cllr David Rogers (Chairman), Cllr Beryl Healy, Cllr Tony Slack and Margaret Unwin, Chief Executive, Care for the Carers.

Fact finding on hospital discharge arrangements

A recent review by East Sussex CC looked at progress being made by Social Services in improving the way in which users and carers were being involved in services. One action point referred the matter of reviewing hospital discharge arrangements across the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust to HOSC.

As a result, the HOSC is carrying out a fact finding exercise on current actions being taken to improve hospital discharge arrangements, before it decides whether or not to undertake a more substantial review. Cllr Tony Slack, along with Roger Howarth, Lead Officer, are carrying out this fact-finding exercise and will report back to HOSC in September 2004.

What do you think of the HOSC?

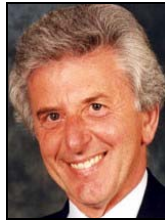
October 2004 marks the first anniversary of the HOSC and we are evaluating its effectiveness in this first year of operation.

We encourage you to comment on what you think it does well - and not so well! Please e-mail comments to

Roger Howarth at
roger.howarth@eastsussex.gov.uk or
telephone him on (01273) 481327 or post
them to Floor E, East, County Hall, St
Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1SW.

New HOSC members

Councillor Tony Slack has succeeded Councillor Joy Waite as one of the HOSC's East Sussex CC members.



Councillor Ann Murray has succeeded Councillor Bert Leggett as the HOSC representative for Eastbourne BC.

Councillor Michael Bigg has succeeded Councillor Ronald Rushbrook as the HOSC representative for Hastings BC.



New HOSC vice chairman



Councillor Diane Phillips has succeeded Cllr Joy Waite as Vice Chairman of the HOSC. Councillor Phillips is the Wealden DC representative on HOSC.

Patient and Public Involvement Forums

As the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIF) develop, Councillor Bentley is attending forum meetings to meet with forum members. He is providing a brief introduction to the work of

the HOSC and is seeking to encourage discussions on how we and the forums can all work together. There are 10 PPIFs covering all aspects of East Sussex NHS services. Following completion of Councillor Bentley's initial visits it is hoped that this will develop into an ongoing programme with other HOSC members developing links with PPIFs in their locality. Roger Howarth also meets regularly with the PPIF co-ordinators where they are working to develop a draft protocol of working arrangements between the HOSC and PPIFs.

Small service changes in Kent

East Sussex and Kent HOSCs are being consulted jointly on the changes to services provided by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust which include:

- Changes to the location of some inpatient medical beds.
- Centralisation of inpatient gynaecology beds (excluding cancer services).
- The location of paediatric surgery whilst the new hospital is being built.
- The most appropriate location of haematology inpatient beds.

Cllr Phillips and Cllr Slack are the HOSC members working on this project.

There is a public forum to discuss the proposals at 7pm on Tuesday 3 August 2004 at the Wealden District Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough.

Working with neighbouring HOSCs

HOSC Chairmen and Lead Officers from Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, Brighton and Hove City, West Sussex and East Sussex met recently to swap health scrutiny experiences and discuss possible ways of working together on regional health issues. The group will meet on a regular basis.

HOSC Reference Group

We would like to continue to build the HOSC Reference Group and if you have any suggestions for membership please contact Roger Howarth on (01273) 481327 or e-mail: roger.howarth@eastsussex.gov.uk

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Bill Bentley, Chairman,
East Sussex CC
Cllr Michael Bigg, Hastings BC
Cllr Ron Dyason, East Sussex CC
Cllr Mrs Joanne Gadd, Rother DC
Cllr Mrs Beryl Healy, East Sussex CC
Cllr Mrs Ann Leigh, East Sussex CC
Cllr Mrs Ann Murray, Eastbourne BC
Cllr Mrs Diane Phillips, Vice Chairman,
Wealden DC
Cllr David Rogers, East Sussex CC
Cllr Phil Scott, East Sussex CC
Cllr Tony Slack, East Sussex CC
Cllr John Webber, Lewes DC

Voluntary Organisations' representatives:
Ralph Chapman, Chairman Age Concern
East Sussex
Rosemary Iddenden, Branch Manager,
Alzheimer's Society

Legal advisor: Richard Partridge
Committee Secretary: Michaela Frost
Lead Officer: Roger Howarth

For further information on health scrutiny, please contact Roger Howarth on telephone (01273) 481327 or e-mail: roger.howarth@eastsussex.gov.uk

The next meeting of the HOSC is at 10am on Thursday 23 September 2004 in the Council Chamber at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes.

HOSC Newsletter 004 – July 2004

Officer contact details:

East Sussex County Council

Roger Howarth (01273) 481327

Roger.howarth@eastsussex.gov.uk

Michaela Frost (01273) 481935

Michaela.frost@eastsussex.gov.uk

Richard Partridge (01273) 481689

Richard.partridge@eastsussex.gov.uk

Sam White (01273) 481581

Sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk

Eastbourne Borough Council

Neil Fuller (01323) 415301

Neil.fuller@eastbourne.gov.uk

Hastings Borough Council

Mary Clarke (01424) 781718

mclarke@hastings.gov.uk

Lewes District Council

Ian Kedge (01273) 484353

ian.kedge@lewes.gov.uk

Rother District Council

Lisa Durtnall (01424) 787813

Lisa.durtnall@rother.gov.uk

Wealden District Council

Jeremy Leach (01892) 602409

Jeremy.leach@wealden.gov.uk

