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£420m development for the Royal Sussex



Eastern Road view from West

Plans for transforming the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton include replacing the 180 year old Barry and Jubilee buildings; transferring the regional centre for Neurosciences from Hurstwood Park to Brighton; developing and expanding the Sussex Cancer Centre and developing the RSCH as the major trauma centre for the region. In addition, teaching, training and research will be strengthened.

The plans were revealed to HOSC by Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH) Chief Executive, Duncan Selbie and Nick Groves, Associate Director (3T Service Modernisation).

Construction of the £420m development, under the banner 'Teaching, Trauma and Tertiary Care (3T) Programme' is scheduled to begin by the autumn of 2010 and be completed by July 2019. Mr Selbie said, 'Although the development is in Brighton, it is a whole health community resource providing care for people across East Sussex.' The plans do not assume any additional movement of patients into Brighton from East or West Sussex and the Trust is working with East Sussex Hospitals on local access to some services. Mike Wood, Chief Executive, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother commented, 'Although quite a small number of patients in East Sussex use BSUH, the development is important for developing high quality of services and also the provision of services which have not been previously available in East Sussex.'

HOSC is encouraged to see the progress to date and will continue to receive reports as the programme progresses and at key stages. Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'We endorse the approach of BSUH and recognise the considerable benefits of the development.'

Stroke services set to improve

Improving stroke care in East Sussex is a priority and over 140 recommendations from various bodies are being delivered through four work streams.

Actions underway include:

- Ensuring stroke patients are admitted directly from Accident & Emergency to a specialist acute stroke unit
- Developing a Sussex-wide stroke register
- Commissioning specialist Transient Ischaemic Attack (mini-stroke) clinics
- Developing a new service model for community rehabilitation
- Implementing vascular health checks
- Ongoing active involvement of patients and carers in the implementation and evaluation of the stroke strategy.



Rachel Harrington, Programme Lead for Stroke, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and

NHS Hastings and Rother briefed HOSC on progress and explained that a multi-agency Stroke Programme Board is co-ordinating the work. Around 20 recommendations are from the recent HOSC review of stroke care services and Cllr Angharad Davies, who chaired this review, is a member of the Stroke Programme Board. She said, 'It is encouraging to see so much progress in a relatively short time and HOSC hopes that the momentum is maintained. Prevention and best practice care makes a huge difference, but more so if backed up by the right resources.'

For a copy of the HOSC Stroke Review report go to www.eastsussexhealth.org . For a paper copy, contact Sam White on 01273 481581 or sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk

Infection lessons learnt from C Diff outbreak



Following an analysis of the causes of the Clostridium Difficile (C Diff) outbreak at Eastbourne DGH earlier in the year, the hospital's infection control strategy has been enhanced. Kim Hodgson, Chief Executive and Dr Barry Phillips, Director of Infection Prevention and Control, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust detailed the lessons learnt from the outbreak and said that everything possible is being done to prevent another one. HOSC was told that several factors contributed to the outbreak. The hospital was experiencing a peak number of admissions and a particularly virulent and aggressive form of C Diff. An isolation ward was rapidly set up and a deep clean programme undertaken

which included £100,000 investment in special cleaning kit. The Health Protection Agency was asked to review the actions taken and see if anything more should be done.

Amongst changes made to prevent further outbreaks are:

- Establishment of a rapid response team
- Rapid C Diff testing
- Dedicated isolation ward available
- Boosted Infection Control Team
- Changes to antibiotics prescribing
- Link consultants for each area and link nurses.

Ms Hodgson said that the Trust has a clear infection control policy and that a cultural shift has already resulted in a marked improvement in awareness.

Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'HOSC welcomes the Trust's timely and energetic response to contain the C Diff outbreak. We note that infection rates have dropped off dramatically and we hope that the new measures in place mean that this is sustainable.'

Maternity engagement

Local people and organisations are the main focus in the engagement plan to ensure everybody knows about the delivery and planning of maternity services across East Sussex. Mike Wood, Chief Executive and Lisa Compton, Director of Public Engagement and Corporate Affairs, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and NHS Hastings and Rother outlined the plans to HOSC. Mr Wood said, 'We want to ensure that proposals gain broad community and clinical support and best meet the needs of the local population.'



Members of the Maternity Services Development Panel (MSDP) act as communication ambassadors and the panel has broad representation. The MSDP have produced a leaflet to support the communication activities. No large public meetings are planned but there is an ongoing programme of focus groups. The information includes all aspects of maternity and is not confined to hospital services.



Nutrition and feeding in hospitals review

HOSC is to undertake a review of nutrition and feeding in hospitals. The Review Board comprises: Councillors Alex Hough, Ruth O'Keeffe, Eve Martin, Diane Phillips and Sylvia Tidy.

We are currently working on the scope of the review. If you have any comments or experience concerning this topic, please contact Sam White on 01273 481581 or email: sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk



LINK news



East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) held its first Annual General Meeting on 17 June and produced its first Annual Report. This included a DVD of one LINK participant's journey from when she became involved. LINK wants to encourage more participants to become actively involved and a recruitment campaign is underway. The LINK work plan is now in place and the organisation is keen to continue and develop further projects. For further information go to the LINK website: www.thecountylink.net



New HOSC members



Cllr Peter Pragnell



Cllr Carolyn Heaps



Mr Dave Rogers

Following the County Council elections in June, Councillor Carolyn Heaps and Councillor Peter Pragnell have joined HOSC. Mr Dave Rogers, Chair, Hastings and Rother Health and Social Care Forum has joined HOSC as one of two voluntary organisation representatives. Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'We are delighted to have Peter, Carolyn and Dave on board.'

...moving on....

The following HOSC members stood down in June: Councillors Beryl Healy and John Wilson, East Sussex County Council and Mr Ralph Chapman, Chairman, Age Concern East Sussex. Cllr Sylvia Tidy, 'I would like to thank Beryl, John and Ralph for their work on HOSC. Beryl and Ralph were two of HOSC's founder members and they have given over five years of excellent service. John joined the committee in June 2005 and he, too, became a stalwart of the committee.'

Claire's secondment

Claire Lee, who has been Lead Officer on HOSC since December 2006, is off on six months secondment to the Centre for Public Scrutiny. However, she's promised to return in February 2010 and we're holding her to this! Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'It's been a pleasure to work with Claire. She gives great support and advice to HOSC members.'

We are seeking a successor for Claire but in the interim, Sam White will be the contact point for HOSC. His number is 01273 481581 and email: sam.white@eastsussex.gov.uk

Next HOSC meeting

10am Thursday 24th September 2009 at County Hall, Lewes

Topics include:

- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Foundation Trust consultation and plans for ambulance stations
- Older people's mental health services strategy – including dementia strategy

If you have any comments or experience concerning these topics or any other health issue affecting people in East Sussex which you would like HOSC to know about, send them to healthscrutiny@eastsussex.gov.uk or the postal address below.

Webcast recordings and further details of meetings are available on the HOSC website: www.eastsussexhealth.org

HOSC July 2009

East Sussex County Council:

Cllr Sylvia Tidy - Chairman
Cllr David Rogers OBE - Vice Chairman
Cllr Carolyn Heaps
Cllr Philip Howson
Cllr Ruth O'Keefe
Cllr Peter Pragnell
Cllr Barry Taylor

Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr Alex Hough

Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Eve Martin

Lewes District Council
Cllr Carolyn Lambert

Rother District Council
Cllr Angharad Davies

Wealden District Council
Cllr Diane Phillips

Voluntary services' representatives:

Mr Dave Rogers,
Chair, Hastings and Rother Social Care
Forum
1 vacancy

East Sussex Local Involvement Network
(LINK) representative:

Ms Janet Colvert
Chair LINK Core Group

Contact:

Sam White, Scrutiny Support Officer
East Sussex County Council, Room C6F, County Hall, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SW

Tel: 01273 481581

Email: sam.white@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

