



Health Scrutiny in East Sussex Newsletter No. 23 December 2008

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.



Seasonal Greetings

The HOSC Chairman, members and officers wish you and your colleagues a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Pregnant pauses



Progress on improving ante and post natal care and outreach services in East Sussex is welcome but the pace of change has been disappointing. This is HOSC's conclusion following a briefing by Vanessa Harris, Director of Finance and Ali Parsons, Strategy and Projects Manager, East Sussex PCTs.

The PCTs have been asked to provide the planned timescale and expected outcomes of the various projects set in train in response to the PCT Boards' decision in December 2007 to develop these services. The need for enhanced ante and post natal care was endorsed by HOSC in January 2008 and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in September 2008.

Ms Harris said that geographical working for midwives is being introduced with the aim of improving access for women. The new arrangements have been agreed with GPs. Women will have their first appointment with a midwife within 12 weeks of pregnancy. Significant changes include community bases for midwives and geographical case-organisation. GP surgeries will allow non-registered patients to see a midwife at their practice - if this is more convenient. Also, alternative clinic venues are being established e.g. Asda in Eastbourne and Children's Centres. Mothers will be able to see midwives on a 'drop-in' basis as no appointment is necessary.

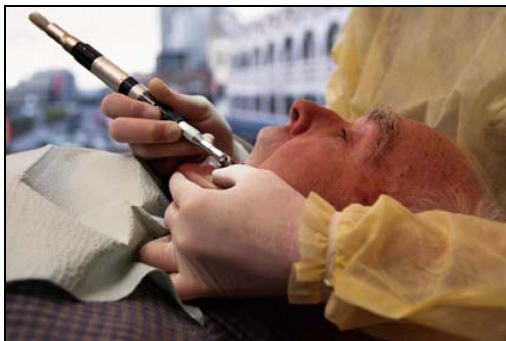
There is a pilot scheme running in Hastings called the Family Nurse Partnership which is working with 100 young mothers. The scheme is designed to improve the health, wellbeing and self-sufficiency of low-income first time parents. Clients remain in the programme until the child is 2 years old.

Two consultant-led maternity units

The IRP's main recommendation was to maintain two consultant led maternity units in Eastbourne DGH and the Conquest Hospital. To organise this, two groups

have been set up: Maternity Services Clinicians' Forum and Maternity Services Development Panel. The first meetings will be in January 2009 and the project is being led by Mike Wood, Chief Executive, East Sussex PCTs. HOSC is keeping a close eye on developments

Oral report has bite



Waiting times for NHS dentistry in East Sussex have reduced and the number of dentists accepting NHS patients has increased since a year ago said Jane Hewitt, Dental Services Development Manager, East Sussex PCTs in her briefing to HOSC on the status of NHS dentistry.

HOSC learned that the PCTs have completed an oral health needs analysis to find out where NHS dentistry services need to be improved to reduce inequalities and improve oral health. The PCTs have targets to increase the number of NHS dentistry patients. By 2011, Hastings and Rother PCT is to meet the needs of 67% of the population (up from 61%) and East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT is to meet the needs of 60% of the population (up from 57%). The PCTs are also carrying out a communications programme to improve awareness of how to access an NHS dentist and publicise the benefits of oral health. There are plans for further enhancements which include developing speciality services and reviewing emergency dental services

Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'HOSC is pleased to see the progress in providing NHS dentistry and we will continue to monitor the improvements to ensure they are sustained. We are particularly interested in the plans for merging special care

dental services in Seaford and Peacehaven and any impact this development has on accessing the service.'

Long term care strategy

A joint strategy for improving the care of people with long term conditions is being developed in a partnership between East Sussex PCTs and East Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care (ASC). The aim is full stakeholder engagement with a strong user focus and the work complements existing joint commissioning strategies. Staff and resources are now in place to advance the strategy and several pilot projects are already in train. These include Telehealth and Community Matrons case management approach. Each pilot project will be evaluated to determine if it can be expanded to cover the county.

The aim is to provide care in the community wherever possible and appropriate and this will be a key performance indicator for the strategy. Usage of a range of services will be monitored to see how effectively this aim is being addressed.



HOSC was briefed on progress by the PCTs Service Design and Transformation Manager, Fiona Streeter and ASC representatives, Sarah Crouch, Putting People First Service Development Manager and Jessie McArthur, Head of Policy and Service Development.

HOSC will submit its stroke review report (due March 2009) to the PCTs and ASC to inform the long-term conditions strategy. The committee will also participate in the consultation work which will be done as part of developing the strategy, which has a target completion date of September 2009.

Fair to weak

The quality of services for East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT has deteriorated from 'fair' to 'weak' according to the latest Health Care Commission annual health check results. HOSC is investigating the reasons behind this headline rating and seeking clarification on the areas of concern from the PCT chief executive, Mike Wood at a meeting in December.

Quality of services for Hastings and Rother PCT have remained 'fair' while both PCTs have improved their rating for 'use of resources'.

Future on hold

The West Sussex Fit for the Future plans are on hold pending the outcome of the proposals for a merger between Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust and Royal West Sussex NHS Trust. This abeyance includes plans for services from the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. HOSC will be kept informed as the process unfurls.

Cervical cancer jab



This year all 12-13 year old girls in East Sussex will be offered the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination in a schools based programme which started in November. The vaccine – Cervarix - will be given by a team of nurses. During 2008/09 17-18 year old women are also being offered HPV vaccine via GPs. These actions follow the October 2007 announcement by the Department of

Health of the introduction of a national HPV vaccination programme to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. The Department of Health estimates that 400 lives per year cohort can be saved through vaccination.

Alison Smith, Children's Services Commissioning and Strategic Development Manager and Joanne Bernhaut, Consultant in Public Health, East Sussex PCTs briefed HOSC on how the vaccination programme is operating in East Sussex. This included measures being taken to ensure all eligible girls are offered the vaccine programme. Alongside the programme, there is a clear message that cervical screening will continue. East Sussex has quite good cervical screening uptake rates but it is crucial to ensure that women are aware that HPV does not protect against all causes of cervical cancer and that they must attend cervical screening. Improving uptake is a high priority for the PCTs and cervical screening is one of their World Class Commissioning outcomes.

HOSC will review the first year's implementation of the HPV programme in November 2009.

LINK news

East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) has elected a Core Group and agreed governance arrangements. The Core Group is made up of 10 individuals elected by LINK participants, plus 6 representatives of voluntary and community organisations. This latter contingent will be nominated by Speak Up, the voluntary sector forum for East Sussex.

The Core Group will develop and manage the LINK's work programme. LINK is able to refer matters to HOSC.

Cllr Tidy said, 'HOSC would like to congratulate all the individuals involved in developing the East Sussex LINK and the support staff. The committee welcomes the opportunities presented by LINK's broad remit across health and social care.'

LINK website:

www.thecountylink.net

Personnel



Ralph Taylor has rejoined HOSC as one of the voluntary services' representatives. He was previously the HOSC member for Lewes District Council. He is currently

Community Networker for Lewes and Wealden based with Southdowns CVS.

Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'It's great to have Ralph back on board. He's a practised health scrutineer and brings a wealth of experience onto the committee.'

Ralph succeeds Debby Matthews, Director, Southdowns CVS on HOSC who stood down in November. Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'I would like to thank Debby for her contributions to HOSC over the last year. She helped ensure the voluntary organisations' perspective on health scrutiny was kept to the fore.'



John Rollo Appleyard

HOSC members would like to pay their respects to John Appleyard who, sadly, passed away on 14th November. John was a leading figure in the Hastings and St Leonards Seniors' Forum and one of the group's founders. He was also chair of the East Sussex Seniors' Forum (ESSA).

Cllr Tidy said, 'The high profile and impact of the Hastings and St Leonard's Seniors' Forum is testament to John's outstanding efforts. He will be sorely missed by all.'

Next HOSC meeting

10am Thursday 19th March 2009 at County Hall, Lewes.

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

HOSC 2008/2009

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 Angharad Davies

Wealden District Council

Cllr Diane Phillips

Voluntary services' representatives:

Mr Ralph Chapman

Chairman, Age Concern East Sussex

Mr Ralph Taylor

Community Networker for Lewes and Wealden, South Downs CVS

East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) representative:

Ms Janet Colvert, Chair LINK Interim Core Group

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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