



Health Scrutiny in East Sussex Newsletter

No. 014 May 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?



Public consultation on East Sussex Primary Care Trusts' (PCTs) 'Fit for the Future' proposals for the future configuration of health services in the County is underway. The consultation sets out the vision for health care 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, including Option 5 submitted by campaign groups in Eastbourne and Hastings, put forward during the consultation. These will be assessed in the same way as the PCTs' 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?

Councillor Bob Lacey said, 'HOSC is committed to a full, balanced examination of the available evidence, and consideration of the range of opinion on the proposals. We will formulate our response to the PCTs shortly after the close of public consultation.'

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	White Rock Theatre	Hastings
10am to 1pm	Friday 22 June 2007	County Hall	Lewes
10am to 1pm	Wednesday 25 July 2007	County Hall	Lewes

Key items on the agenda:

17 May 2007	Option 5 Saves Lives campaign groups; maternity capacity in Brighton; ambulance trust's views
7 June 2007	Views from clinical and midwifery representatives; GPs, East Sussex Maternity Services Liaison Group
22 June 2007	Views from PPI Forums; voluntary groups; MPs, Adult Social Care; Crowborough Birthing Centre
25 July 2007	Round-up of evidence

Further details on the programme for these meetings are on the HOSC website 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 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 to your local HOSC member or 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 formally 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.

Delayed transfers halved



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 in single figures. 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 marked shift towards prevention is planned over the next three to five years.

HOSC will continue to monitor the status of DTCs.

Homefield Place, Seaford

The lack of consultation with the local community on plans for Homefield Place is concerning HOSC. 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.

LONG TERM



Treatment and services for people who live with a long term condition such as diabetes, stroke or dementia have been looked at by HOSC. 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 superceded 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



Cllr Ralph Taylor, Lewes District Council's HOSC representative has retired following his decision not to stand for re-election in May. Cllr Bob Lacey said, 'Ralph gave much valuable input into many

of the topics that HOSC has scrutinised. HOSC work has benefited considerably from his clarity of thought and suggestions. My HOSC colleagues and I wish him every success in his post-political career. He has been an effective member of the scrutiny team.'

Legal adviser, **Richard Partridge**, has retired from East Sussex County Council after 28 years service. Cllr Bob Lacey said, 'Richard was one of the HOSC founding fathers and his expert and pragmatic legal advice has been much appreciated by 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. Councillor Bob Lacey said, 'HOSC members and officers welcome Angela on board and look forward to working with her. We live in interesting – and legally challenging - times.'

Missed HOSC's meeting?

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

www.eastsussexhealth.org

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 (retired 4 May 2007)

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 and Hastings Borough Councils and Lewes, Rother and Wealden District Councils.