



## **News Release**

### **Health Committee to scrutinise 'Fit for the Future' proposals**

A powerful committee has signalled its intention to carefully scrutinise the 'Fit for the Future' proposals for changes to local health services.

In March the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) heard from the Chief Executive of East Sussex Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Nick Yeo, about the Fit for the Future proposals.

The main proposals under examination centre on child birth and associated services. The 18 week public consultation process began on 26 March.

It was agreed by HOSC that the proposals do represent a 'substantial variation' to services which therefore require formal consultation with the committee under national guidelines.

Cllr Bob Lacey OBE, Chairman of the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee said:

"The role of HOSC is to gather and assess all the available evidence and different viewpoints on the proposals before submitting our response to the PCT. In order to get a balanced view, we are holding a series of evidence meetings from May to July. These will be open to members of the public who wish to hear the evidence for themselves."

The first session on 17 May in Eastbourne will include:

- detailed questioning of the PCTs' proposals
- a presentation by the campaigners to retain consultant lead services on both sites
- input from the Ambulance Service
- an assessment of the future need for maternity care (population projections etc)

The second session on 7 June in Hastings will focus on the detailed clinical evidence, followed by two further evidence gathering sessions later in June and in July.

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The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.

A final meeting, likely to be in September, will then review all the information and agree a response which will be fully informed by the best available evidence.

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### **Details of the evidence gathering meetings**

17 May, 2pm – Eastbourne, Winter Gardens

7 June, 3pm – Hastings, White Rock Theatre

22 June, 10am – Lewes, County Hall (and available to view live on the internet)

25 July, 10am - Lewes, County Hall (and available to view live on the internet)

Full details, including the programme and venue information will be published on the HOSC website [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org) or email [healthscrutiny@eastsussex.go.uk](mailto:healthscrutiny@eastsussex.go.uk) , telephone: 01273 481581.

Details of the PCTs public consultation are available from [www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk](http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk)

### **What is the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee?**

The committee looks at the work of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and National Health Service Trusts. It also looks at the way health services interact with council services.

HOSC can carry out independent reviews of any local health services provided and commissioned through the NHS or councils.

District, borough and county councillors come together through the committee along with representatives from the voluntary sector.

For more information see the HOSC website at [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)

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