



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Joint Committee to decide on Fit for the Future referral

The Joint Committee scrutinising the Fit for the Future decisions will decide whether or not to make a referral to the Secretary of State for Health at a meeting next week.

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will meet at County Hall in Chichester on Wednesday July 23, at 11am. The meeting will also be webcast online via the West Sussex County Council website.

The meeting will focus on the decisions made by West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) on the model for future health services and the location of the major general hospital.

MPs representing residents affected by the PCT's proposals (East and West Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Portsmouth and Brighton & Hove) and the hospital campaign groups Support St Richard's, Support PRH and KWASH will all be invited to speak at the meeting on the decisions taken by the PCT, and the process used to reach those decisions.

Candy Morris, Chief Executive of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA), will also be at the meeting to respond to the Committee's recommendations regarding the quality assurance process and costs of the Fit for the Future consultation process. She will also clarify the SHA's future role in the implementation of Fit for the Future.

Committee Chairman Peter Griffiths said: "The Committee will come to its final conclusions at this meeting, and will reach a decision on whether or not to make a referral to the Secretary of State for Health on the PCT's Fit for the future process."

The webcast of this meeting will be available via a link from the County Council website at www.westsussex.gov.uk, or directly from the host website at www.westsussex.public-i.tv/site/ where a guide will be found to opening the link.

Notes for editors

A Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) is formed when NHS proposals affect more than one area and in this case comprises those local authorities consulted by the West Sussex and Brighton and Hove PCTs. The JHOSC has the power to scrutinise the proposals, make recommendations to the PCTs and if not satisfied by their response, to refer the disputed issues to the Secretary of State for Health.

The JHOSC is made up of councillor representatives from the following local authorities:

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Hampshire County Council



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.

- Portsmouth City Council
- Surrey County Council
- West Sussex County Council

Further information on JHOSC meetings and agenda is available at:
<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/content/your-council/scrutiny-and-review-unit/health-scrutiny/joint-health-overview-and-scrutiny-select-committeeen>

This press release has been issued by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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