

REPORT OF THE
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Annual Report)
PART II

286. SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the work of Hampshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee from April 2011 to March 2012.

287. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee holds the Local Government statutory responsibility for health scrutiny powers. It is intended to ensure that decisions about health services are taken with due regard to the people affected. The legislative framework within which the Committee functions allows Members to consider any aspect of health that affects the population of Hampshire. It also places very specific duties on the NHS with regard to consultation, information and responses to any recommendations made by the Committee.

2. The Committee is a statutory consultee on any potential substantial change being considered by the NHS and has the power to refer contested decisions about health services to the Secretary of State for Health or to Monitor in the case of Foundation Trusts.

288. POLICY CONTEXT

1. The Committee's 2011/12 Annual Report outlined the future shape of health and social care provision as determined by the Coalition Government. Health is in a state of major transition. Clinical Commissioning Groups will soon become responsible for commissioning most health care for patients.

2. Hampshire County Council will be directly affected by health reforms, with upper tier local authorities seeing the transfer of responsibility for Public Health from the NHS to them, and with NHS Commissioners a new duty to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. A further policy change arising from the Health and Social Care Act 2012 being monitored by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the establishment of local HealthWatch, replacing LINKs. Local Authorities will be able to commission their local HealthWatch to provide advocacy, advice and information to support people if they have a complaint.

289. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Proposals to develop or vary NHS services have continued to come to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee throughout the year, where Members can be alerted to forthcoming proposals to change health service provision. All proposals for varying NHS services are considered by the Committee and any associated reports or comments are included with agenda papers to ensure members are properly informed about proposals to change health service provision.

2. Responses to consultations and other proposals to develop or vary services since April 2011, have included:

Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster:

- Proposals for stroke service changes
- Possible proposals for changes to vascular surgical services

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust:

- Proposals for changes to Adult Mental Health services in Hampshire (including Care Quality Commission reports)
- Proposals to consult on Older People's Mental Health Services in East and West Hampshire

South Central Strategic Health Authority:

- Stroke, Major Trauma and Vascular surgical services (later led by Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster)

National Consultations:

- Children's Heart Surgery

3. Responses to health inquiries since April 2011, have included:

Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster:

- Fast-track Continuing Healthcare services – concerns over triaging of service users from clinicians in Hampshire.
- Hythe Hospital – identification of options for the future use of the community hospital, commissioning of reablement beds.
- Chase Hospital – identification of options for the future use of the community hospital.
- Fordingbridge Hospital – plans for the future of the hospital site.
- Odiham Cottage Hospital – withdrawal of inpatient beds and shaping of outpatient service provision.
- Oak Park – update on the development of services.
- GP Surgery proposed closures.
- Fitness for surgery initiative.
- Drug therapy for macular degeneration.
- Any Qualified Provider.
- Diabetes community service model.

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:

- Acquisition of Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare Trust.

Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare Trust:

- Andover birth centre

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust:

- Support for people who are terminally ill.
- Nurturing Maternity Services strategy.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust:

- New performance and reporting regime.

4. Reviews of Health Services since April 2011 have included:

Fluoridation:

The Committee continues to have an interest in this review which concluded in late 2008. The SHA has continued to confirm to the HOSC its intention to implement the decision to fluoridate the drinking water supplies. However, no further progress has been made.

Therapy services for disabled children:

The HOSC and the Children and Young People Select Committee agreed in July 2009 to set up a Joint Review Panel to review therapy provision for children with special educational needs. The NHS and Children's Services accepted in full the recommendations of the Joint Review Panel, and both Committees are monitoring progress in moving this issue forward. The work is being taken forward by the Hampshire Joint Child Health Commissioning Board, with representation from two Committee Members.

Falls and Falls Prevention in the Older Population:

The HOSC undertook a review of falls in the older population following an assertion that falls accounted for significant demand on the ambulance service. Recommendations have been made to the NHS to address the key issues for management of demand and improvement of falls prevention services. The Director of Public Health has committed to delivering against the Falls Review recommendations in support of falls prevention.

290. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

1. The Committee will continue to engage actively with partner organisations across Hampshire, and in one-to-one meetings as appropriate. It will build on its relationship with the Local Involvement Network (to become local HealthWatch), and other partners who are in a position to comment on health provision and the effectiveness of joint health and social care arrangements.

2. The Committee will continue to receive information on, and initiate action in response to, issues raised by Members and partners. Particular issues for further consideration and action during 2012/13 may include:

- The transition of commissioning responsibilities.

- Transition arrangements in relation to the handover of roles and responsibilities from Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts to other NHS bodies.
- Developments in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board(s).
- The developing role of the NHS Commissioning Board.
- Transitions of NHS Trusts to become Foundation Trusts.
- Continuing impact of financial pressures and changing service models on sustainability in the NHS.

A full version of this Annual report can be found at:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=3952&tab=2

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm

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