

REPORT OF THE
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PART II

310. INQUIRIES RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN

The Committee continues to receive and respond to inquiries about NHS services from County Councillors and partners. At the meeting held on 24 July 2012 the following key items were considered:

A. NHS 111 – Update on the award of contract

1. Representatives of Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster updated the Committee on NHS 111, the nationally driven new three-digit telephone service replacing NHS Direct, which aims to improve access to NHS urgent care services. In Hampshire, the contract for providing this service had recently been awarded to South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust.

2. Members heard that a 'soft launch' of the service was due to take place in October 2012, initially in South Hampshire, and later expanding to North Hampshire. The full public launch would take place in Hampshire on 6 November 2012, supported by local publicity. It was noted that NHS 111 would be a 'freephone' number, and once live all previous 'out of hours' and urgent care telephone numbers would cease to operate. Work was ongoing with key partners to ensure that service users were made aware of this new single point of access. Members requested that the local communications strategy for the roll out of NHS 111 in Hampshire be provided to the Committee.

B. Fast Track and Continuing Healthcare – update on internal review

1. Representatives from Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and Hampshire County Council Adult Services attended to provide an update on progress against the action plan for improving arrangements for continuing healthcare, following the Committee's light-touch review of this area.

2. It was reported that the operational policy for continuing healthcare had been updated, developed jointly by the Primary Care Trust Cluster and Adult Services, and that feedback received indicated access to the Fast Track service had improved, which Members welcomed.

3. Members agreed that the topic of Continuing Healthcare remain on the work programme in order that the Committee could remain apprised of progress whilst commissioning of services transferred to Clinical Commissioning Groups.

C. South Central Ambulance Service Foundation Trust: Estates strategy briefing

1. The Head of Operations (East Hampshire) for South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust provided an update on the future location of ambulances and ambulance stations in South East Hampshire. It was reported that the Trust was due to undertake changes to its estate portfolio in south east Hampshire over the next 12-18

months. The Trust planned, as part of this strategy, to close four ambulance stations in the Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth areas, as they were deemed no longer fit for purpose. These stations would be replaced with a new central station, the preferred location for which would be in the North Harbour area (north of Portsea Island). It was anticipated that this location would provide improved accessibility to the road network serving the area.

2. Members were assured that in addition to the central station, a number of ambulance standby points would be used in order to ensure accessibility to all areas of south east Hampshire within the eight minute target. The introduction of ten hour overlapping shifts meant there would not be a gap in service while a crew returned to the central station at the end of their shift.

3. The Trust agreed to continue to provide quarterly performance information to the Committee in order for Members to monitor whether the changes would impact on response times.

311. PROPOSALS TO VARY OR DEVELOP NHS SERVICES

The Committee is continuing to receive proposals from the NHS that may substantially vary or change the provision of health services. At its last meeting on 24 July 2012 consideration was given to the following items:

A. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust: Adult Mental Health services –update on implementation

1. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's Clinical Director for Adult Mental Health presented the Committee with an update on the implementation of changes to Adult Mental Health services in Hampshire. The Committee had previously set up a Working Group in April 2012 to consider in detail concerns raised by stakeholders local to the Woodhaven unit. The Working Group had requested additional information be provided by the Trust, which was received. This demonstrated that overall bed demand had not exceeded the number of beds available to those requiring an inpatient stay, in line with the phased reduction in acute beds.

2. Members were satisfied with the Trust's responses to the supplementary information requested by the Working Group, but wished to add the topic of Mental Health Act Section 136 assessments to the work programme for future scrutiny, as the Committee had reason to believe this was an area that could be improved.

3. Members were satisfied with the progress of implementation reported by the Trust for the new Adult Mental Health model of care in Hampshire. The Committee requested that they receive a further implementation update to the November 2012 meeting including details of the planned evaluation of the changes, and to the January 2013 meeting to consider the results of the evaluation.

B. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster: Vascular Services – update

1. Representatives from the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster updated Members of the Committee on the latest position for vascular services. It was reported that an informal seminar had taken place on 11 June 2012 in Winchester involving provider Trusts, independent experts,

commissioners and Health Scrutiny representatives. Members of the Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had attended indicated it had been a useful session to bring together all stakeholders.

2. It was reported that a Strategic Planning Group had been established following the Seminar involving vascular clinicians from Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, University Hospitals Southampton Foundation Trust and Frimley Park Hospital Foundation Trust. A national service specification for vascular surgery was expected to be finalised in September, and this Group of clinicians would be working together to ensure all Vascular Units in Hampshire would be compliant with the specification for 2013/14.

3. Members expressed disappointment that a satisfactory conclusion had not yet been reached, but welcomed the fact that future working would be taken forward by vascular clinical leads from the Trusts concerned. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Primary Care Trust Cluster to outline any further information or updates required.

C. University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust – Relocation of Elderly Care Beds

1. Representatives of University Hospital Southampton Foundation Trust alerted the Committee to the Trust's plans to relocate 24 elderly care beds from Southampton General Hospital to the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, which is operated by Solent NHS Trust. The driver for this move in ward had been to increase the number of surgical and flexible beds available at the General Hospital, as the Trust was experiencing demand pressures on surgical beds due to a sustained period of high urgent care demand, and to increase services available in a community setting.

2. It was noted that the ward at the Royal South Hampshire had been confirmed as clinically appropriate, and would have a junior doctor on site 24/7, with a consultant visit once a day. Patients would only be transferred to this ward if they did not require the intervention of other acute services available at the General Hospital. It was anticipated that the new arrangement would be in place from October 2012, and would predominantly be for Southampton based patients.

3. Members concluded that the change did not constitute a substantial change in service, as the move in service would predominantly affect service users in the Southampton area, and there would be no change to the service to be provided. The Committee did agree, however, that the Chairman would write to the Trust to seek clarity on a number of points and concerns raised during discussion.

D. National Specialist Commissioning Board: Children's Congenital Heart Surgery

1. Members heard that Southampton General Hospital was one of the children's congenital heart surgery centres selected by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trust's to be designated a Specialist Surgical Centre within the future configuration. The decision had been taken at a meeting held in public on 4 July 2012, at which the configuration described as Option 'B' during the consultation was selected, which involved seven surgical centres leading congenital heart networks.

2. Members welcomed the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trust's decision to retain Southampton General Hospital as a specialist surgical centre leading the South

Central network for Children's Congenital Heart Surgery. Members confirmed that the outcome of the 'Safe and Sustainable' review was considered to be in the best interests of the Hampshire population affected, and therefore did not constitute a substantial change in service. The Committee also agreed to monitor the related Adult Congenital Heart Disease national review which had recently been initiated.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Inquiries received and action taken (search item reference 4133)
- Proposals to vary or develop NHS services (search item reference 4134)

COUNCILLOR PAT WEST
Chairman