

REPORT OF THE
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PART II

333. 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 25 September 2012 the following key items were considered:

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

1. The Committee noted a response from University Hospital Southampton Foundation Trust clarifying details of the Trust's plans to relocate 24 elderly care beds from Southampton General Hospital to the Royal South Hampshire Hospital.

2. It was noted that local Clinical Commissioning Groups had provided support for the move in beds on the basis that it would be temporary, beginning in October 2012 and ending in March 2013, subject to review in January 2013. Members accepted University Hospital Southampton and Solent NHS Trust's invitation to visit the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, to view the environment of the relocated ward.

3. Members reconfirmed their support for this temporary ward move, and invited University Hospitals Southampton Foundation Trust to report back to the 29 January 2013 meeting of the HOSC to update Members on the move of the Elderly Care ward, and the outcomes of the requested review.

334. 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 25 September 2012 consideration was given to the following items:

A. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust: Older People's Mental Health services - update on consultation

1. The Committee initially heard from the County Councillor for Petersfield Butser, Councillor John West, who gave a personal account of his experience of individuals and families accessing Older People's Mental Health services. He asked NHS Bodies to ensure that any proposed service changes are discussed with the local County Councillors for the units affected.

2. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's representatives updated the Committee on the outcomes of the 12 week consultation held on proposals to close Older People's Mental Health inpatient units in the East and West Hampshire areas. The previous phases of this programme had led to changes to services provided in the North (Andover) and South (Southampton) of Hampshire. The third phase proposed the closure of the inpatient beds in Willows Ward in Petersfield, Fernhurst Ward in Portsmouth, Summervale House in Park Gate, and the Becton Centre in Barton on Sea.

3. The Older People's Mental Health division of Southern Health had received the support of the Committee in March 2012 to go out to a 12 week formal consultation, following a period of engagement on the formation of the proposals. This consultation commenced from 4 May 2012, and ran until 27 July 2012. A consultation document had been published with support from partners, regular stakeholder meetings had been held in both the East and West of the County, and public events had been attended, amongst other activities. Feedback was encouraged through written responses, telephone calls, public meetings and online surveys. Several key themes and concerns emerged throughout the consultation, which Southern Health provided a response to.

4. Southern Health informed the Committee that they had provided information which they felt could evidence how the proposals met the 'four tests' of the Secretary of State for Health, stating that the proposals had support from GP commissioners, had a clear clinical base of evidence, had been subject to robust public and patient engagement and maintained or increased patient choice.

5. The Committee explored issues raised by members of the public which suggested that not all public facilities had displayed the consultation information (such as libraries and GP surgeries). The Trust felt that their engagement and consultation activities had been robust, and could provide documentary evidence to show that such places had been sent the consultation information. The Trust had asked for an independent review of the results of the consultation and had received this. They stated that they would be willing to take back any learning from Members as to how to conduct their consultations more effectively in future.

6. The Hampshire LINK representative present at the meeting reported that the LINK agreed that the consultation had been adequate. They felt that the Trust would need to ensure that work was undertaken with GPs on early signs of mental health illnesses in the elderly, support for carers and travel plans.

7. Following a vote, the Committee confirmed that there had been appropriate stakeholder engagement and consultation in the development of the proposals for redesigning the Older People's Mental Health service in East and West Hampshire, and that appropriate evidence had been provided to demonstrate that the phased closure of Older People's Mental Health beds in East and West Hampshire was in the best interest of the local population.

8. The Committee requested that they receive an update at the 27 November 2012 meeting, to include additional information on:

- How the Trust will be performance monitoring inpatient and community services throughout the transitional timetable.
- The final travel plans for the East and West Hampshire areas, taking into account the concerns of stakeholders shared in the consultation.
- The final plans for savings to be reinvested into Older People's Mental Health community services.
- The outline business case for the future use of the Willows Ward, Petersfield Hospital, and the Becton Centre, Barton on Sea.
- Confirmation of how the conclusions reached in the Concilio Associates report will be taken into account for future consultations.

- Confirmation of how Southern Health will ensure closer working with GPs and Primary Care services.
- Final plans for access to Electroconvulsive Therapy services for Older People's Mental Health service users.

B. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Chase Community Hospital – proposals for future service provision

1. Representatives from the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group updated Members of the Committee on the detailed proposals for the future of service provision at Chase Community Hospital. The Committee heard that the main use of the Hospital in future was proposed to be a mix of community and acute outpatient clinics, using models already implemented in the Hythe (New Forest) and Oak Park (Havant) areas. This model would require the closure of the 12 available inpatient beds at the Hospital.

2. It was recognised that inpatient beds were an important service held in high regard by local people, and it was proposed that an alternative model of bed-based care be implemented whilst a provider was found for a new Nursing Home in the area. This bed-based model of care would include:

- Referral into a 'virtual ward', which would enable service users to be supported at home by specialist community teams.
- Beds commissioned from a residential home in the Whitehill Bordon area supported by the 'virtual ward' team.
- Beds commissioned from an approved nursing home providing 24 hour care, including end of life care.
- Admission to Petersfield or Alton Community Hospitals for short stays.
- Admission to acute hospitals for acute care needs, such as Basingstoke, Royal Surrey or Portsmouth.

3. Significant engagement had been undertaken with the local population on the future use of the Hospital, and regular stakeholder meetings had been held to progress discussions. It was recognised that the next steps timeline was ambitious and a period of engagement would need to be undertaken before a final business case could be agreed.

4. The County Councillor for Bordon, Whitehill and Lindford stated that local people had reported concerns about the future use of the Hospital, in particular the bed-based model of care. He suggested that further engagement needed to be undertaken with the local community on these proposals. He questioned local GP support for the plans. The County Councillor requested that the Committee ask to see a firm commitment and private sector interest in the building of a Nursing Home in the Bordon Whitehill area prior to any decision to close existing beds. He stated that transport plans would need to be drawn together, and requested clinical evidence stating why the beds would need to close.

5. Members agreed that they did not consider there to have been adequate stakeholder engagement with the wider local community on the detailed proposals, specifically on the bed-based model of care, for the future of Chase Community Hospital. The Committee therefore requested that this work take place before it could

consider providing support for the proposed way forward. The Committee requested that this item be brought before it once appropriate engagement work on the detailed proposals had been conducted with the wider local community.

C. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster: Vascular Services Update

1. The Committee were informed by the Chief Executive's representative of the latest position for vascular services. Since the previous update at the 24 July 2012 meeting, the Chairman had written to the Primary Care Trust Cluster outlining the Committee's continuing concern that a local resolution had yet to be found, and highlighting the risk that if progress was not made a solution could be imposed on Hampshire when national service specifications were published. The Chairman also asked for clarification around a number of issues raised at the Vascular Services seminar, and requested that an independent clinician be involved in any ongoing network model discussions with the Hospital Trusts going forward.

2. The Primary Care Trust Cluster had responded and provided the clarifications sought. The Committee were pleased to note that an independent clinician would help to facilitate future discussions on vascular services in Hampshire. The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the progress made in relation these services.

D. Department of Health: Health Scrutiny Regulations consultation

1. The Committee were informed by the Chief Executive's representative that the Department of Health had launched a consultation over the Summer recess on the regulations governing local authority health scrutiny. A response had been agreed by the Chairman to be submitted on behalf of the HOSC, as the closing date was prior to the next formal Committee meeting.

2. Members understood that the government would respond to the consultation feedback before the end of 2012, and that the intention would be to put any new regulations before parliament in Spring 2013. It was agreed that the Committee be updated on the impact of the final form of any new regulations.

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 4312)
- Proposals to vary or develop NHS services (search item reference 4313)

COUNCILLOR PAT WEST
Chairman