

REPORT OF THE
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PART II

269. 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 27 March 2012 the following key items were considered:

A. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of White and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster: Oak Park Update

1. Representatives from Southampton, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and Hampshire County Council Adult Services attended to present an update on the Oak Park development in Havant. The Committee noted that the Havant War Memorial Hospital had closed in October 2011, with the agreement that ten alternative reablement and intermediate care beds would be commissioned elsewhere in the community. However, at the present time only two beds were fully operational, following an inspection at the nursing home where the beds had been commissioned resulting in moderate concerns from the Care Quality Commission.

2. Members questioned the future commissioning intentions for the ten reablement / intermediate care beds, and were informed that relationships had been developed with the home selected and staff locally wished to continue with this provider. The provider had now completed the required improvement actions flagged by the Care Quality Commission.

3. Members confirmed they were satisfied with progress made on the proposed model of care for Oak Park, and that they wished to receive an interim update from the Primary Care Trust Cluster when the contract for commissioned reablement / intermediate care beds at Edenvale Nursing Home had been implemented in full, or if an alternative provider were found.

B. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of White and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster: Hythe Hospital Update

1. Representatives from the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and Hampshire County Council Adult Services attended to present an update regarding Hythe Hospital. It was reported that work was being undertaken to finalise the mapping of likely patient activity through the site, and which community services could be provided to the local community from the hospital.

2. It was previously reported to the Committee that 16 reablement beds would be commissioned from within the local community. Members heard that at present only six were operational. Ten beds had been commissioned from 'Forest Court', a nursing home provided by Hampshire County Council, but issues relating to the provision of these had resulted in them being de-commissioned. Feedback from local GPs had indicated provision of all the beds on one site was not their preference, therefore it was planned to re-commission the beds in small clusters across the local area.

3. The Committee heard from the County Councillor for Dibden and Hythe, Cllr Brian Dash, who reported that he was satisfied with the progress being made. The

Chairman of the Hythe League of Friends echoed this sentiment, though regretful that in some areas progress had been slower than stakeholders would have liked. Members confirmed they were satisfied with progress made on the proposed model of care for Hythe Hospital, and that they wished to receive an interim update from Hampshire County Council Adult Services when the ten reablement beds were re-commissioned.

C. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster: Chase Community Hospital Update

1. Representatives from Southampton, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster gave an update regarding the development of proposals for the future use of the Chase Hospital site, a community hospital in Bordon, East Hampshire. It was noted that the local population in the surrounding area was anticipated to increase significantly in future years, therefore it was important to 'future proof' the services to be provided, as far as possible.

2. The Committee heard the views of the local County Councillor for Bordon, Whitehill and Lindford, Cllr Adam Carew, who expressed concerns from local stakeholders regarding the under-utilisation of Chase, and stressed the importance of retaining services supported by the local community.

3. Members confirmed they were satisfied with progress made on the proposed model of care for Chase Community Hospital, and requested that Cllr Carew continue to be engaged in the stakeholder group. Members confirmed that they wished to invite the Primary Care Trust Cluster to the May 2012 Committee meeting in order to receive a further update detailing the proposals for the future of Chase Community Hospital.

270. 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 27 March 2012 consideration was given to the following items:

A. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust: Improving Outcomes for Hampshire's Adult Mental Health Services

1. The Committee received a number of deputations on this item and the County Councillor for Lyndhurst, Cllr Keith Mans, was in attendance as the local Member for the constituency including the Woodhaven unit. The Chief Executive of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and colleagues gave a presentation providing an update on implementation of their proposals since the January meeting of the Committee, at which time the Committee had supported the Trust's plans for Adult Mental Health services in Hampshire. It was noted that the intensive support programme which was already in place in the Woodhaven area would be rolled out to all areas from April, and that staff had started transferring from the Meadows inpatient facility to form a Hospital at Home team for the East Area.

2. It was reported that based on the validated bed occupancy data, bed usage continued to be below bed availability in January and February across the Trust's total Adult Mental Health beds. It was noted that further reductions were planned, with 107 beds anticipated to remain once the transition to the new model was complete. Regarding 'leave' or 'assigned' beds, it was explained that in some cases service users were granted long or short term leave, in which case the bed could be re-used for other

service users. Members were informed that bed alert emails, such as those leaked by a member of Southern Health's staff and supplied to the Committee by Dr Julian Lewis MP, were a routine way of managing beds. Clinicians have historically had the flexibility to review patients for early discharge, in order to provide vacant beds, but would only approve someone for discharge if clinically appropriate.

3. The Trust was comfortable with working with a small margin of spare bed capacity, considering this to be efficient, and was confident of managing this safely and effectively. It was reiterated that an individual who had clinical need of an inpatient bed would never be turned away – should beds in the adult mental health directorate be full, the Trust would seek a bed from the remainder of their facilities if necessary (e.g. Older People's Mental Health beds), or another provider within Hampshire, or as a last resort, a placement outside of the County.

4. Members heard that the Trust would be undertaking a 'before and after' evaluation on the transformation from a focus on acute inpatient care to a community model, in order to provide local assurance regarding the success of the implementation, and to add to the evidence base nationally regarding this approach. Members requested that the 'before and after' evaluation of the service change be presented to the Committee when available.

5. The Trust reported that it was planned to re-use the facility at Woodhaven for a different category of service users – those detained under the Mental Health Act with complex needs or co-morbidities requiring a 'low secure' environment. Members learned that currently a number of Hampshire patients of this type were based at inpatient facilities outside of Hampshire due to the lack of suitable accommodation within the County.

6. Members, following what had been heard through the deputations received and the ensuing robust discussion, noted the continued questions and concerns that had been raised about the evidence supporting the proposed changes including regarding bed demand. Following the raising of these concerns, the Committee requested that Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust consider a pause in the implementation of the changes to adult mental health services. The Trust was clear that such a delay would have an adverse impact on both staff and service users. As a result of this discussion, Members accepted that such a pause would not be in the best interests of the population affected.

7. The Committee agreed that it continued to support the way forward proposed by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust in relation to Adult Mental Health services. In addition, it was agreed that the Committee would establish a small task and finish working group to discuss concerns raised during the course of the meeting.

B. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust: Older People's Mental Health Services

1. The Chief Executive of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and colleagues gave a presentation regarding the Trust's wish to consult on the next phase of their older people's mental health services review, which aims to develop community services, and reduce the number of under-utilised acute inpatient beds. It was indicated that a previous review undertaken by the Trust in the North and South of the County had shown that improving the community support available to service users and their carers had resulted in reduced demand for acute inpatient beds.

2. It was reported that pre-consultation engagement on the future older people's mental health service had been undertaken with local stakeholders, and that the Trust were working with service users regarding travel plans to alternative locations. The Trust had also worked closely with Hampshire County Council Adult Services regarding respite opportunities and early intervention.

3. One of the Trust's proposals suggested the closure of four inpatient units over the coming eighteen months in order to release funding for community services. It was argued that current levels of bed usage meant that these beds could be taken out without an adverse impact on bed availability. It was indicated that the units highlighted for closure were Fernhurst at St James Hospital in Portsmouth, The Willows in Petersfield, Summervale in Sarisbury Green, and the Becton Centre in the New Forest.

4. Members confirmed that whilst they supported the direction of travel outlined by the Trust in relation to Older People's Mental Health services, they were not in a position to agree to a 12 week consultation by the Trust on the proposals without having an opportunity to see, and comment on, the draft consultation paper. It was recommended that the Trust work with the Chairman regarding the draft consultation document, and that the document be circulated to Members of the Committee prior to the launch of the consultation. Members also requested the Trust's Engagement Plan for the Older People's Mental Health services consultation. The Trust will report back to the Committee once the consultation had been undertaken.

C. Southampton Hampshire Isle Of Wight And Portsmouth Primary Care Trust: Vascular Surgery

1. Representatives of the Southampton, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster gave an update on vascular surgical services in Hampshire. It was reported that the Primary Care Trust Cluster would continue to commission the historical vascular surgical service in Hampshire, and that the consultation on proposals for a network model between Southampton and Portsmouth Hospitals would not now proceed.

2. The Committee expressed disappointment that the Hospital Trusts had not been able to agree on a vascular services network model. Members questioned whether, in continuing to commission the historical model, Portsmouth Hospitals Trust would be able to meet the service specification set out by the South Central Strategic Health Authority for vascular services, in particular the recommendation that Trusts providing such services operate a 1 in 6 rota, providing 24/7 vascular surgeon coverage, from April 2012. Members were assured that Portsmouth Hospitals Trust would be recruiting two additional vascular surgeons to meet this specification, but that these wouldn't be in post prior to 1 April 2012.

3. It was reported that the Primary Care Trust Cluster would be continuing to monitor vascular surgical services in Hampshire through a Clinical Governance framework. It was confirmed that the Primary Care Trust Cluster, as the commissioner of vascular surgical services, would take action if there were concerns over the ability of a Trust to provide safe vascular services in the County.

4. Members agreed to engage with their HOSC colleagues across Southampton, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth in order to explore the feasibility of a potential review, which would scrutinise the decision taken by the Southampton

Hampshire Isle Of Wight And Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster to continue to commission the historical vascular service in Hampshire.

D. Southampton Hampshire Isle Of Wight And Portsmouth Primary Care Trust and HCC Children's Services : progress in relation to the provision of therapy for children with special educational needs

1. Representatives from Southampton, Hampshire, Isle Of Wight and Portsmouth Primary Care Trust Cluster and Hampshire County Council Children's Services gave an update regarding progress with the review of the provision of therapy for children with Special Educational Needs. It was reported that a consultation on the options outlined in the report was planned to take place between April and June 2012.

2. The Committee agreed that Councillor Brian Collin and Councillor Pam Mutton be appointed to the project board considering the options for the future commissioning of therapy services on behalf of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

E. National Specialist Commissioning Board: Children's Heart Surgery

1. The Chief Executive reported that the Committee had been given the opportunity to make further comments to the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts leading the review of Children's Heart Surgery, as a result of a recent Judicial Review ruling. These comments would focus on the results of an independent report on family travel analysis, which had been published subsequent to the previous deadline for consultation response submissions.

2. Members agreed a response which reiterated the Committee's support for Southampton General Hospital remaining as a centre providing children's congenital heart surgery.

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 3796)
- Proposals to vary or develop NHS services (search item reference 3797)

COUNCILLOR PAT WEST
Chairman