

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

**14. SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the work of Hampshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee from April 2012 to March 2013.

**15. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

1. For 2012-13, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held the Local Government statutory responsibility for health scrutiny powers. These powers are intended to ensure that decisions about health services are taken with due regard to the people affected. The legislative framework within which the Committee functioned in this year allowed Members to consider any aspect of health that affects the population of Hampshire. It also placed very specific duties on the NHS with regard to consultation, information and responses to any recommendations made by the Committee.

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

**16. POLICY CONTEXT**

1. The Committee's 2012/13 Annual Report outlines the impact of the transitional year for health as set out by the Health and Social Care Act 2011. The Committee notes its work with emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups, to whom the responsibility for commissioning the majority of health care for patients transferred during this year. The Report also notes the impact of the Act on Local Authorities; with upper tier councils such as Hampshire now responsible for public health, commissioning Local Healthwatch, and co-ordinating Health and Wellbeing Boards.

2. This year has also seen the discontinuation of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), and from 1 April 2013, their replacement with Local Healthwatch. This 'consumer champion' will provide advocacy, advice and information to support people if they have a complaint, as well as carrying forward public and patient involvement work.

3. The Report also notes that the publication of the Francis report, as well as the prominent featuring of health-related news stories in the headlines in 2012-13, has helped to ensure that the NHS and health service quality remain a top priority both locally and nationally.

## 17. 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 2012, have included:

Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster (abolished April 2013):

- Proposals for changes to service provision at Chase Community Hospital.
- Proposals for changes to vascular services.

South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group:

- Proposals for changes to service provision at Chase Community Hospital.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust:

- Proposals for changes to Adult Mental Health services in Hampshire.
- Proposals for changes to Older People's Mental Health services in Hampshire.
- Proposals for changes to service provision at Chase Community Hospital.

Hampshire County Council / Hampshire Constabulary / Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust:

- Update on the multi-agency work in relation to the use of section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

National Consultations:

- Children's Congenital Heart Surgery.
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease.
- Health Scrutiny Regulations Consultation.

3. Responses to health inquiries since April 2012 have included:

Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster (abolished April 2013):

- Alton Community Hospital – temporary closure of ward for maintenance works.
- Fordingbridge Hospital – building works and future of the radiology service.
- NHS 111 roll-out update.

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

Hampshire County Council Adult Services:

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation.
- Fast Track and Continuing Healthcare – update on internal review.

Hampshire County Council Children's Services:

- Provision of short break service for children and young people with complex health needs.

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:

- Development of model of service provision across multiple sites.
- Update on merger to form Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- Implementation of the model of care at the Andover Birthing Centre.

Calleva Clinical Commissioning Group:

- Odiham Cottage Hospital – progress with model of care.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust:

- Estates strategy – future location of ambulances and ambulance stations in South East Hampshire.

Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:

- Temporary change in service for oncology patients.

NHS Dorset / NHS Bournemouth and Poole:

- Extension of choice of provider for community endoscopy and dermatology service.

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust:

- Relocation of elderly care beds.

4. Reviews of Health Services since April 2012 have included:

Fluoridation:

The Committee continues to have an interest in this review which concluded in late 2008. The Strategic Health Authority in 2012-13 continued to confirm to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and County Council its intention to implement the decision to fluoridate the drinking water supplies. The County Council is currently considering its options in light of new regulations laid before parliament.

## **18. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14**

1. The Committee will continue to engage actively with partner organisations across Hampshire, and in one-to-one meetings as appropriate. It will begin a new relationship with the 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 have revised their 'Framework for Assessing Substantial Service Change' document in anticipation of the 2013/14 year, which incorporates

changes to health scrutiny legislation following the Health and Social Care Act 2011. This document, alongside a report to the County Council in July 2013, sets out the new responsibilities of the Committee in relation to substantial changes to NHS services in Hampshire.

3. 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 2013/14 may include:

- The developing role of Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England.
- Transitions of NHS Trusts to become Foundation Trusts.
- Continuing impact of financial pressures and changing service models on sustainability in the NHS.
- National reviews of specialist NHS services.
- Monitoring of substantial changes to NHS services.
- Post-Francis review changes to complaints and performance monitoring within the NHS.
- Developments in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Healthwatch.

A full version of this Annual report will be considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 July 2013. Members can request a copy of this report prior to this date from Democratic and Member Services.

Further details can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm)

**COUNCILLOR PATRICIA WEST**  
**Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**