

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

Committee:	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 July 2013
Report Title:	Inquiries Received and Action Taken
Reference:	5093
Report From:	Director of Policy & Governance

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## 1. Summary and Purpose

- 1.1. This report provides Members with information about the issues brought to the attention of the Committee and the response to these referrals. It sets out the inquiries received, the source of this inquiry and any action taken. Where appropriate comments have been included and copies of briefings or other information attached.
- 1.2. The approach adopted provides the route through Local HealthWatch and other partner organisations (Hampshire district councils, NHS organisations, voluntary and independent sector providers and organisations that are representative of social care service users and carers) can raise issues with the Committee.
- 1.3. Where inquiries raised with the Committee are already subject to monitoring or other performance management activities the action taken will be focused on the local resolution of inquiries through appropriate sign-posting to the agency best placed to respond.
- 1.4. Where an issue cannot be satisfactorily resolved between the parties concerned then the Committee can consider options for further action.
- 1.5. New issues raised with the Committee, and those that are subject to on-going reporting are set out in Table One of this report.
- 1.6. The recommendations included in this report support the Corporate Strategy aim of maximising wellbeing through the overview and scrutiny of health services in the Hampshire County Council area.

**Table One: Inquiries Received and Action Taken**

<b>Topic/ inquiry</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Romsey Community Hospital	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	The HOSC has received a late item from the Trust on their intention to temporarily close the community hospital in order for urgent building works to be completed.  A briefing is attached to this sheet .	
<b>Recommendations:</b>  That Members confirm:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If they support this temporary closure of Romsey Community Hospital for six weeks in September and October 2013.</li><li>2. If they require any further information or a further update in relation to this temporary closure.</li></ol>			

## **HAMPSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PAPER – 30 July 2013**

**Distribution:** Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny (HOSC)

**Submitted by:** Southampton and South West Integrated Care Division,  
Southern Health NHS FT

**Date:** 26 July 2013

**Purpose:** To brief HOSC members on the proposed temporary closure of Romsey Hospital

### **1. Background**

In April 2013 Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust took over the running of the Romsey Hospital site. It has become apparent that essential works are needed to replace and repair the heating system which will include carrying out remedial works to the hot and cold water services, and alterations to electrical and fire alarm systems. This work is part of a wider programme of investment to improve the infrastructure of the building and whilst it has been needed for some time, we wish to undertake this work prior to the onset of winter pressures.

### **2. Implications**

It has been identified that there is asbestos in the roof space and on the pipe work which makes the task of refurbishment more complex.

For health and safety reasons it will be necessary to close the hospital to inpatient admissions for an estimated seven weeks to carry out full removal of the asbestos. Other services in the hospital will be able to run intermittently throughout this period.

Due to regulations regarding the removal of asbestos the hot water supply will need to be switched off. As a result it will not be possible to have in-patients' resident during this time. 20 rehabilitation beds are affected by the ward closure.

External hand washing facilities will be connected to maintain services in the 2 wings (separate from the loft space affected) which support outpatient services and physiotherapy.

It is anticipated that the removal of asbestos will take six weeks with an additional short period of time (one week) to recommission the bed services. We are proposing to begin works on 2 September 2013 and aim to have these set of works complete by 21 October 2013. This is phase 1 of the necessary works.

On completion of the removal and clearance of the asbestos from the roof space we will need to begin phase 2 of the works. We are proposing to start these in January

2014 and this will include the replacement of the fire alarm system and remedial works to the hot and cold water services. Following this will be an upgrade to the lighting in the main circulation areas. The heating system alterations will be designed in the coming months.

### **3. Impact on patients and staff**

The proposed ward closure is at the end of the summer period and prior to expected winter pressures. We are looking to ensure that the impact of this work is minimal in terms of the availability of services during the winter months.

During the period of closure of the ward, eight currently un-commissioned beds will be commissioned and opened in Lymington hospital. These beds will be staffed by Romsey hospital staff and supported by the consultant geriatrician currently overseeing Romsey patients.

In addition, staff from Romsey Hospital will be placed within the local Romsey Community Care Team to help facilitate appropriate discharges into the community. This will support patients within their own home environment, preventing unnecessary admissions and reducing length of stay at Lymington Hospital (during the period of closure).

The Ward Manager has begun detailed consultation with staff through one to ones with the ward staff. Specifically we wanted to identify those staff who would be in a position to support those patients who would be admitted to Lymington Hospital. Staff have been very understanding of the need to undertake the works at Romsey and of the temporary impact on their roles. We are confident that we have the staff to manage the beds at Lymington and within an enhanced community provision.

During the period of closure the service will not be able to offer a step up facility from the community. Looking back at previous activity it is anticipated that this could affect approximately ten to twenty patients during this time period. To ensure we maintain care to these patients, we will be enhancing our community support with our partners across the integrated team, including those in other facilities where appropriate.

When these works have been completed we will be able to undertake a programme of infrastructure works which will ensure the building is kept safe, fit for purpose and meets the strict criteria set by Monitor.

### **4. Communication and engagement**

We would wish to reassure members that a robust communications and engagement plan is in place to ensure all key stakeholders are informed of the proposed closure, the reasons for it and are fully informed of our plans in relation how we will continue to provide a service to our patients during this time.

We hope members will recognise that we are investing in the hospital's infrastructure to secure its future and ensure it is fit for purpose in being able to provide safe and

high quality services. We will continue to take clinical advice on the best options for patients and will keep all stakeholders updated on the progress, timescales and arrangements.

## **5. HOSC considerations**

We would request that HOSC note the proposal to temporarily close Romsey Hospital to allow these essential works to take place before the expected winter pressures and offer its approval of these plans.

Laura Rothery  
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