

REPORT OF THE
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PART II

50. INQUIRIES RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN

The Committee continues to receive and respond to inquiries about NHS services from County Councillors and partners. At a meeting held on 24 September 2013 the following key items were considered:

A. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Hampshire County Council: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – overview of service

1. The Committee received an update on progress made in improving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Hampshire, following the award of the service contract to Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in April 2011.

2. Members heard that the service had previously experienced challenges including limited access to specialised expertise, and waiting lists exceeding the NHS maximum referral to treatment time of 18 weeks. The Trust reported that the new provider of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service had restructured the service to ensure quality and safety remain the central features of delivery, as well as building positive relationships with local partners. As a result, the service is currently meeting the waiting time target of 12 weeks for assessment and 18 weeks for treatment, and is continuing to work towards a locally-set 4 week target for assessment. The Trust assured Members that they were confident with the sustainability of the model of service implemented since the re-organisation.

3. Members noted that care plans were tailored to meet individual needs and requirements, and intensive treatment for service users could be progressed through either a community or home environment, dependent on each individual need. The Trust confirmed that initiatives such as the piloting of evening clinics and engagement in schools would help to access families who previously found engagement into the service difficult.

4. Members heard that Leigh House in Winchester provided access to Tier 4 services for children and adolescents with high risk mental illnesses, such as severe self-harmers and those actively trying to commit suicide. It was acknowledged that capacity issues within this service are part of a national recognised problem for access to Tier 4 services for children and adolescents.

5. The Committee resolved to write to the commissioners of Tier 4 services in Hampshire, NHS England, to clarify future commissioning intentions, and to further consider this topic once a response had been received.

51. 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 September 2013, consideration was given to the following items:

A. Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: Adult Mental Health Services – proposals to move service location

1. The Committee had previously heard in July 2013 of proposals to re-locate an adult mental health wellbeing centre, which provides services to the population of North East Hampshire, from Frimley Children’s Centre in Surrey to a location in North East Hampshire. Following recommendations made by the Committee, the Trust attended the September meeting to confirm that the preferred location of the centre would be the Aldershot Centre for Health. In addition, Members heard that services would be co-located with community mental health recovery services, following feedback and agreement from commissioners. The Committee heard that these services would be supported by satellite clinics in the Fleet area.

2. It was reported that the change of location would not alter the quality of service delivered to service users, and the Committee were reassured that each service user would continue to receive a personalised care plan.

3. It was reported that the Trust were committed to ensuring that the service continued to be accessible to all residents, and existing frequent public transport links combined with new satellite arrangements reassured Members that Hampshire residents should, overall, experience a reduction in travelling time.

4. The Trust reported that engagement with service users, staff and other stakeholders would continue and the Chairman asked for details of the engagement plan to be forwarded to the Committee.

5. After a discussion, Members agreed that the proposals didn’t constitute a substantial change in service, and agreed to continue to monitor the progress made in relation to these services.

B. South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Chase Community Hospital – update on implementation of new model of care

1. Following previous updates to the Committee, a representative of South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group provided Members with an update on the new bed-based model of care, which had been fully implemented following the closure of beds at the Chase Hospital site at the end of August.

2. It was noted that the four commissioned nursing home beds at Wenham Holt Nursing Home were fully operational and Members were reassured that the Trust would provide transport to convey relatives and carers to the nursing home at Liss. The Trust were confident that they would be in the position to flex-up beds if demand required.

3. It was reported that planning permission for building and renovation work was anticipated to be granted in December 2013, with a completion work target date of April 2015. Members noted that the release of capital funding for the project had been progressing well, and that discussions with the NHS England area team and the national lead in NHS Property Services were on-going.

4. Members were satisfied that on-going engagement with stakeholders such as the voluntary sector, elected Members and patient group representatives would ensure continual monitoring of the new bed-based model of care.

5. Members agreed that they were satisfied with the progress of the implementation of the new model of care and requested an update from the Clinical Commissioning Group in 6 months time.

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 5209)
- Proposals to vary or develop NHS services (search item reference 5208)

COUNCILLOR PAT WEST
Chairman

THIS PAGE IS LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK