



Hampshire  
County Council

Cllr Patricia Stallard  
Chairman  
Health and Adult Social Care  
Select Committee (HASC)  
(via e-mail)

Cllr Liz Fairhurst  
Chairman, Health and Wellbeing Board  
c/o Democratic & Member Services  
Hampshire County Council  
Elizabeth II Court  
Winchester  
SO23 8UJ

*Enquiries to*

*My reference*

PS/2

*Direct line*

01962 845095

*Your reference*

*Date*

23 February 2015

*E-mail*

[liz.fairhurst@hants.gov.uk](mailto:liz.fairhurst@hants.gov.uk)

Dear Patricia

### **Consideration of Mental Health Issues by Health and Wellbeing Board**

On 2 May 2014 the Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) wrote to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board regarding the monitoring undertaken by the HOSC of changes made to adult mental health services in Hampshire, including demand for inpatient beds. The HOSC highlighted that the provider, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, had reported demand regularly exceeding their bed capacity, despite a number of work streams aimed at reducing demand. The HOSC referred the issue to the Board due to the Board's strategic role to consider the needs of mental health patients in Hampshire.

The Board had already planned to hold a seminar on mental health care in 2014, and therefore took account of the issues raised by the HOSC within their wider view of mental health services. The seminar, 'Mental Health Matters', was held on 24 October 2014, and the Board received a report on the seminar at its recent meeting held on 4 February 2015. At this meeting, the Board also noted the briefing provided by Southern Health in December 2014, regarding their approaches to manage the ongoing pressures on demand for inpatient beds. I understand this briefing has also been shared with the HASC.

The Board recognised that a number of work streams are ongoing to support improvements in mental health care, overseen by various multi agency forums, and did not wish to duplicate this work. The Board instead agreed that they should maintain an oversight of the work being taken forward by these forums, and included this within their recommendations, which are set out below:

- That the seminar report be circulated widely and shared via board members' websites and included in the Health and Wellbeing Board communications.
- That the virtual planning group be retained in order to provide a 'sounding board' to reflect on progress and support initiatives such as the new community based network of support.
- That when the District Forum report to the Board in September 2015 they include actions that they are taking / planning to take to promote good mental wellbeing.
- That the Public Health Group provides updates on the breadth of work being undertaken to describe the extent of the issues and how it intends to consider a strategic approach to enable actions going forward over 2015-2016.
- That the Crisis Concordat Group considers how best to respond to the seminar findings on crisis care and incorporate any agreed actions in to their action plan and verbally report these to the next Board meeting.
- That Wessex Local Area Team Parity of Esteem Group provide an annual overview on progress towards parity of esteem.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the report on the Mental Health Crisis Concordat, and the priorities for local delivery of the Concordat.
- The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board write to the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee to provide an update on the aspects raised in their recommendations and any action due to be taken by the Board.

The Board was also mindful that the HASC is continuing to monitor changes made to adult mental health services. It was agreed that further thought needs to be given to how the Board can best take forward its involvement with mental health services, given its strategic role, and the need to avoid duplication with the role of the HASC to scrutinise provision of health services. I would welcome your input to how to progress this issue effectively between the Committee and the Board.

The reports considered as part of this item are available online:

[http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item\\_ID=6477&tab=2&co=&confidential=](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=6477&tab=2&co=&confidential=)

### **Section 136 Recommendations**

The Board also considered your letter dated 19 August 2014 regarding the outcomes of the HASC's review of the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in Hampshire. The Board discussed the recommendations made by the HASC relating to health-based places of safety for children and adolescents, and noted in particular recommendation a), which requested that as a matter of urgency, a preferred proposal for a health-based place of safety for children and adolescents is identified and implemented in Hampshire.

The Board heard that a solution has been agreed by the Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, with Southern Health proposing the use of three places of safety for children (located at Parklands, Elmleigh and Antelope House). Furthermore, arrangements are being made with a private ambulance service, whose staff have the appropriate training to convey and escort under 18s to places of safety. The new service will be operational from 1 April 2015. I attach the briefing note on this which was provided to the Board for your information.

Regarding recommendation h) (that commissioners assist in identifying health funding for the continuation of Operation Serenity urgently, given its primary role in the reduction in Section 136 detentions, and contribution to early intervention and prevention in mental health crises), I can confirm that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crisis Concordat Steering Group has identified a number of priorities to deliver the concordat commitments in Hampshire, including the proposal to extend the use of street triage services across the whole of Hampshire. I will inquire regarding the funding for such services, and update you when I have clarified this point.

Thank you for bringing these issues to the attention of the Health and Wellbeing Board. I trust the above is a satisfactory response to the recommendations made by the HASC. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Fairhurst', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cllr Liz Fairhurst  
Chairman, Health and Wellbeing Board