

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	18 May 2010
Report Title:	Inquiries Received and Action Taken
Report From:	Chief Executive

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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 which Local Involvement Networks (LINks) 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

Topic/inquiry	Source	Action Taken	Comment
2010/11 Operating Plan- progress with agreeing future management arrangements for community services	NHS Hampshire	This update will provide members with an overview of the way in which NHS Hampshire is intending to respond to financial pressures, meet targets, reduce health inequalities and secure quality improvements.	
<p>Recommendation: NHS Hampshire provides an update to the July HOSC of key financial challenges for the NHS in the coming year.</p>			
Ambulance performance in rural areas	Bucks, Hants, Oxon JHOSC	The JHOSC will meet with SCAS and Commissioners on 26 May after which it is anticipated that follow up work will be taken forward by the HOSC in response to local issues identified.	People who have falls are emerging as a possible area for review in Hampshire
<p>Recommendation: Members are advised of the outcome of the meeting on 26 May at the July HOSC.</p>			
Access to health services for people who are homeless	HOSC Members	NHS Hampshire will provide an update on work taking place in relation to these services and Winchester Befrienders will do a short presentation on their work in this area.	
<p>Recommendation: As NHS Hampshire was not able to provide the up-date requested by the HOSC this item be deferred to the meeting on 27 July.</p>			

Topic/inquiry	Source	Action Taken	Comment
Paediatric Rheumatology	County Councillor	<p>Further to concerns raised by a member about the imminent closure of these services SUHT has provided the following statement: 'The paediatric rheumatology service in SUHT is currently provided by an adult rheumatologist who cares for children as part of his workload and a general paediatrician with a special interest in rheumatology.</p> <p>We now need to bring in more specialist paediatric rheumatology support for the service, which would be seen nationally as the standard to reach in caring for children with these needs.</p> <p>The number of patients needing the service is relatively small and we are now in discussions with commissioners across both South Central and South West SHAs about providing a specialist service in Southampton for a population across a wider catchment area.</p> <p>If commissioner discussions do not result in funding the specialist service at SUHT, we may need to work with another centre that does offer this level of care to oversee patients in this area. There are no plans to close the service.'</p>	
<p>Recommendation: NHS Hampshire alerts the HOSC to any plans to review the provision of these services.</p>			

Topic/inquiry	Source	Action Taken	Comment
Hythe Hospital	HOSC Chairman	<p>Hythe Hospital has closed to admissions due to clinical risk caused by staff shortages.</p> <p>A statement produced by HCHS in support of this closure is attached at Appendix One.</p>	
<p>Recommendation: NHS Hampshire provides clear assurances about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steps being taken to mitigate the clinical risk identified • Arrangements in place for patients requiring ‘step up ‘ or ‘step down’ support • Steps to recruit additional staff • When the facility will reopen to local people 			
Annual Report	HOSC Chairman	The annual report for 2009/10 has been circulated to members setting out the activities of the HOSC over the last year and highlighting likely areas of interest in the coming year.	
<p>Recommendation: Members agree the report and areas for further work in 2010/11.</p>			

Section 100 D – Local Government Act 1972 – background papers

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB the list excludes:

1. Published works
2. Documents that disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.