

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 June 2015
Report Title:	Inquiries Received and Action Taken
Reference:	6737
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

Topic/ inquiry	Source	Action Taken	Comment
Care Quality Commission's inspection of University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	Care Quality Commission University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	Final report of inspectors to be received and recommendations for action to be noted by the Committee. The Report from the inspections is attached as Appendix 1 (page 6).	Draft action plan to be circulated separately.
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>That Members confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If they are satisfied with the Care Quality Commission inspection report on University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. b. If further information is required. c. Timings for future monitoring of the progress of actions recommended. 			
Temporary closure of beds – Anstey Ward, Alton CH	Southern Health NHS FT	Briefing paper circulated to Members prior to paper dispatch is attached as Appendix 2 (page 65). A short update briefing is attached as Appendix 3 (page 66).	Proposed further update in July on the issues outlined.
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>That Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note the update. b. Request an additional report to the July HASC on actions being taken to 			

Topic/ inquiry	Source	Action Taken	Comment
remedy the issues outlined in the report.			
Temporary closure of Nightingale and Chichester Wards – Romsey Community Hospital	Southern Health NHS FT	<p>Briefing was circulated to Members prior to paper dispatch (see Appendix 4, page 67).</p> <p>Further update attached will be attached as Appendix 5 (to follow).</p>	Proposed further update in July on the issues outlined.
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>That Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note the update. b. Request an additional report to the July HASC on actions being taken to remedy the issues outlined in the report. 			

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

- 1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
 - b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 1.2 **Equalities Impact Assessment:** This is a covering report for items from the NHS that require the attention of the HASC. It does not therefore make any proposals which will impact on groups with protected characteristics.

2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 This paper does not request decisions that impact on crime and disorder

3 Climate Change:

- 3.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- 3.2 How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?
- No impacts have been identified.

Maintaining safety at Alton Hospital

Further to our previous update to HASC on 15 January 2015, we have been operating Alton Hospital at a reduced capacity of 17 beds (out of a possible 24) since early March. Prior to this, we had closed Anstey Ward for a short period last summer. Despite extensive efforts to recruit, both the hospital's relatively isolated location and competition in the area for jobs continue to make staffing a significant challenge.

What are we doing?

The safety of our patients is paramount and we cannot operate services that are clinically unsafe. Closely monitoring the situation and listening to concerns raised by our staff, we have carefully determined that a reduction to 12 beds will allow us to run the ward safely and effectively. This is a proposal which has been developed in partnership with and is supported by the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. We have carried out a phased reduction by closing beds to admissions once patients have been safely discharged, and will monitor, review and provide a further update to HASC after a period of four months. During this time the ward will remain open to new admissions within the available bed numbers.

Impact on the wider health system

We have been working closely with partners in the local authority, acute hospital, GPs, and commissioners to effectively manage the demand for beds whilst operating at a reduced capacity, including:

- A more robust triage process with Hampshire Hospitals, to make sure a referral to the ward is right for each patient.
- A joint admission avoidance programme, which is run in partnership with Hampshire County Council and aims to provide effective care in people's home sooner, preventing the need for ongoing hospitalisation.
- Alternative inpatient services are also available at Pemberly and Oakridge if required.

We are therefore confident that the planned reduction to 12 beds will not have a significant impact on care, but will ensure our community based services remain as flexible as possible to support system resilience.

Longer term solutions

We have engaged with commissioners, GPs, patients and other local stakeholders to consider sustainable options for the future of Alton Hospital. This proposal to reduce beds does not interrupt this ongoing process and we remain committed to close partnership working to make the most effective use of the site.

Briefing paper
Hampshire Health and Adult Services Select Committee
10 June 2015

Update: Maintaining safety at Alton Hospital

Background:

In April we began a phased reduction of beds within Anstey Ward at Alton Hospital, in order to operate at a reduced capacity of 12 beds due to ongoing staffing challenges. This has allowed us to continue running the ward safely and effectively, and has been enabled through ongoing communications with the Clinical Commissioning Group, Hampshire Hospitals and Hampshire County Council.

Progress:

We have been actively recruiting for staff in recent months, and this has included some PR activity and events, such as an open day at the hospital, as well as more traditional methods. We have recently welcomed a new ward manager to Anstey, however the recruitment of nursing staff is still a challenge, therefore the bed reduction remains in place.

The conversations with commissioners, GPs, patients and stakeholders to establish options for future of the hospital are still ongoing, and we will continue to support this process.

ENDS

Hampshire Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
Briefing Note
Temporary ward closure at Romsey Hospital
28 May 2015

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust has taken the decision to temporarily suspend admissions to Nightingale and Chichester wards at Romsey Hospital following cases of MRSA.

The decision, which took effect from 5pm on Friday 23 May, is among a number of measures being taken to minimise the risk of further cases and to ensure patients continue to receive the highest quality, safe care.

All Infection Prevention and Control procedures are in place.

In total eight cases of MRSA among patients on the wards were identified. However there are currently two patients in total on the wards who have been identified with MRSA. Those patients are being cared for in isolation in side rooms, in-line with Trust policy.

Other action taken by the Trust to minimise the risk of further cases includes a full deep clean of the wards, along with ongoing regular cleaning.

Contact screening of patients is taking place.

An Investigating Officer has been appointed to undertake an investigation into all cases, with close support from medical and Microbiology teams.

Further measures are being considered and will be implemented if required.

The closure of beds to admissions is being reviewed daily.

GPs and staff have been informed and visitors to the wards are being communicated with. Updates are being provided as required on an ongoing basis.

We will of course ensure that you are kept fully updated.

ENDS