

Portsmouth City   
Teaching Primary Care Trust

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28<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Councillor David Horne  
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
Portsmouth City Council  
Guildhall Square  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO1 2AZ

Dear Councillor Horne

**Quarterly Update – June 2009**

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP). As a standing HOSP member you will be aware that, on behalf of the PCT, there is an agreement that I write to the Chairman on a quarterly basis to highlight issues that the HOSP may wish to be aware of in relation to services provided by Portsmouth City Teaching PCT and/or provided for Portsmouth residents. This agreement is to highlight new issues or significant changes to existing issues that were already known to the HOSP.

There are three issues I wish to bring to the Panel's attention this quarter. These are set out below.

**Commissioning of Wheelchair Services**

You will recall that at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, the HOSP resolved to receive an update on decisions made by the PCT's Professional Executive Committee (PEC) regarding possible changes to wheelchair provision. I am able to report here that at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April the PEC approved recommendations to market test the services currently provided over the next two months. If this demonstrates that there are viable alternative providers, the PCT will begin a formal procurement process and notice will be given on the current contract with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust for these services.

This option will allow the PCT to seek a provider that meets requirements set out within the service specification. Any bidder for the provision of this service will need to evidence that it can meet waiting times, provide a quality service and is able to provide the PCT with accurate activity reports for monitoring purposes.

### **Locally Based Hospital Units (LBHUs)**

Further to my report in the March quarterly update to the HOSP, outline plans, supported by families, have been developed to provide supported living accommodation for people currently living in Hamilton House and Avenue House. A bid for £930,000 of capital monies to support the re-provision has been approved by the Department of Health and work can now begin to draw up a detailed design brief and take the work forward to the next stage.

### **Dental Procurement Project**

The HOSP will be interested to know that South Central Strategic Health Authority has been allocated additional central funding of £17.5m for dental services during the year 2009/10. The PCT has received an allocation from this fund and will use this to commission up to three new dental practices. It will also offer existing dentists the opportunity to bid for additional NHS activity. The first new practice will be co-located with other health services in the Paulsgrove and Wymering Healthy Living Centre. The other two locations have been identified either because of their high oral health needs in areas of high deprivation (in and around Charles Dickens) or in areas where there is a shortage of dental care in the area (Hilsea and/or Copnor). Potential providers will have to source their own premises within these defined areas.

The PCT will undertake a fair, open and transparent competitive procurement. To do this it has set up a Dental Procurement Project. The advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest for the provision of additional dental services will be issued in mid-June. This procurement will focus on new patients and will ensure that quality and extended hours are built into provider contracts through their Key Performance Indicators.

If successful the PCT will hope to award contracts for the new dental practices in October 2009 with staggered start dates for each of the new services between January and April 2010. The procurement process includes active communications and engagement, a plan for which has already been drawn up as a working document which will develop with the project.

I hope this gives you a useful update.

Yours sincerely



Rob Dalton  
**Director of Corporate Affairs**