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

Dear Councillor Horne

Quarterly Update – November 2009

At the request of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP), updates on six issues are set out below.

Dental Procurement Project

Since the last update in June, NHS Portsmouth has had a number of Expressions of Interest from providers of dental services in response to our tender advertisement. Following a pre-qualifying process, a number of providers were short-listed and sent invitations to tender for dental services in the Paulsgrove & Wymering Healthy Living Centre, in Charles Dickens and within the boundaries of Hilsea or Copnor. From the responses received, the PCT is pleased to have short-listed bidders for interview. A preferred bidder for each of the sites will be selected. The preferred bidder will be recommended to the PCT Board and contracts will be awarded towards the end of November. The PCT will work with the successful bidder(s) to mobilise their services as soon as is practicable.

Alongside the procurement exercise, the PCT has also begun a publicity drive to encourage patients to access NHS dental care and to raise awareness of the Portsmouth Dental Helpline. To this end updated publicity material has been produced which will be widely circulated through GP practices, pharmacies and other public centres throughout November and December. During half-term week in October the PCT hired the Health Bus over a three- day period which was parked in three busy locations around the City. The Bus was manned by Dental Helpline staff,

oral health promoters and PCT staff who were on hand to recruit patients to attend an NHS dental practice. This proved to a very effective and useful exercise with more than 600 people registering their details with the Dental Helpline staff on the Health Bus.

The PCT is also in the process of tendering for social marketing research to be conducted across Portsmouth. The aim of this is to identify those members of the public who do not routinely access dentistry and to recommend ways in which that their behaviour might be altered so that they do begin to improve their oral health and are encouraged to visit the dentist on a regularly basis.

Chlamydia

The PCT is pleased to report that the national target of 17 per cent for screening during 2008/09 was more than achieved at a figure of just over 19 per cent.

Screening of Chlamydia was put out to tender earlier this year and the PCT's Contraception and Sexual Health (C&SH) service was awarded the contract in favour of the previous provider, the Genito-Urinary Department at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. C&SH took over the contract on 3rd August, 2009, and although it is to date behind target, the service is establishing itself and we would expect that over the summer months the number of screens would be lower due to seasonal variations – for example students away on holiday.

B clear have been given notice as C&SH is providing all kits and will supply these to GPs and pharmacies as part of the Local Enhanced Service element to their contracts.

Rembrandt Unit

The future location of the services provided by Rembrandt Unit will now be reviewed jointly by NHS Portsmouth, NHS Hampshire and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. The aim is to ensure that the right services are delivered in the right place and will drive improvement in the quality of local services. The PCT would therefore like to provide the HOSP with an update on the future of the Rembrandt Unit as part of that review update in the coming months.

Thomas Parr House

The initial review of Thomas Parr House was completed in February 2009. However, work to determine the future model for this assessment and treatment service with Hampshire PCT was not undertaken in this financial year as planned. The delay has resulted from two factors. First, Hampshire PCT was not in a position to take part in the work due to other pressures, and, second, although a project lead was identified, their role subsequently changed and they were no longer in a position to take this forward.

This work is now part of the Learning Disability Commissioning Plan for 2010/11 and will be re-allocated. The second-stage review will take place in 2010 and it is planned to have an options paper completed by 31st May, 2010.

Locally Based Hospital Units (LBHUs)

Further to my report in June 2009, I can advise that progress on developing detailed design briefs has been slower than planned and key issues relating to finance and

estates needed clarification. However, the PCT has recently confirmed that both Hamilton House and Avenue House can be used to support re-provision, either by remodelling the current buildings/site, or by new build on the same site where this is appropriate.

An Estates Working Group is currently developing a range of options for the two units on a supported living model and families, carers and advocates will be consulted on these within the next month.

Families, carers and advocates have been involved throughout the process through a range of formats and opportunities including letters, open family meetings, update sheets, 1:1 meetings with staff and letters. Two family members have also sat on the Steering Group.

A full business case will be presented to the PCT in December/January for a final decision to be made about the supported living accommodation and model of care.

St Mary's Treatment Centre

The PCT, over recent months, has conducted some engagement with patients and the public on what their perception is of care closer to home, the services they would like in Portsmouth that they feel are closer to home and how important it is for them to have that care. This engagement included members of Portsmouth LINK, BME groups run by City Council Community Development Workers, the Roberts Centre, a general practice patient groups and GPs in the City. It comprised focus groups and a questionnaire. The information gathered provides insight into the fact that care closer to home is important to people, that they not only want this but need to know where services are, how they can access them and that when they need to access them the services are available at times convenient to them. Feedback also indicates that communication of current service provision/planning needs to be improved.

The engagement undertaken provides a general insight and a basis for more detailed engagement to be considered to support the PCT in the development/choice of options for the future of St Mary's NHS Treatment Centre in terms of both services and accessibility. A Project Steering Group is meeting during November to establish a time table for action. The PCT will be pleased to share this time table and further engagement plans with the HOSP in the near future.

I hope this gives you a useful update.

Yours sincerely



Rob Dalton
Director of Corporate Affairs