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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 – January 2010**

There are 3 issues that I would like to bring to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel's attention this quarter. These are set out below.

**Dental Procurement Project**

The PCT has now selected a preferred bidder for each of the 3 areas of:

- Paulsgrove & Wymering Healthy Living Centre
- Charles Dickens
- Hilsea/Copnor

The bid documents were scored by assessors and local stakeholders and 3 bidders were invited to a final clarification meeting. Following a review of the overall scores and some further discussions Best Practice CDA Limited was identified as the preferred bidder for all three schemes.

Each of the 3 contracts will be for a period of 5 years with a 5-year option to extend. The Paulsgrove contract will start the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, and the Charles Dickens and Hilsea/Copnor contracts will commence during April 2010.

In anticipation of the opening of the Paulsgrove practice, the Portsmouth Dental Help Line has been taking details of people who would like to attend that practice since the beginning of January 2010. A press release has been issued and publicity escalated in the Paulsgrove area. Similar activity will take place nearer the opening of the practices in Charles Dickens and Hilsea/Copnor.

Finally, "uscreates" has been procured to start the scoping work on social marketing research to be conducted across the 3 areas where the new practices will be located. Members will recall that the aim of this research is to identify those members of the public who do not routinely access dentistry. It will then recommend ways in which their behaviour might be altered so that they begin to improve their oral health and are encouraged to visit the dentist on a regular basis. Target groups of males aged sixteen to thirty-four and families with children under the age of five have been identified through baseline research, notably the Oral Health Needs Assessment Survey.

### **Portsmouth Childhood Obesity Levels**

Children are weighed and measured annually in Reception Year (ages 5 to 6) and Year 6 (ages 10 to 11) in all schools in Portsmouth. This is undertaken as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Results are sent to parents together with information on how to improve their child's weight or maintain a healthy weight and information on local services.

The latest date for England shows that in 2008/09 9.6 per cent of children in Reception Year were obese and 18.3 per cent of children in Year 6 were obese. These figures show no change on those of 2007/08, but are still encouraging as they show we are halting the rise in childhood obesity.

Figures for Portsmouth for 2008/09 are encouraging. This is despite being slightly higher than those for England. They show a slight decrease in the obesity figures of 2007/08, being 12.5 per cent (compared with 12.7 per cent in 2007/08) for Reception Year, and 21 per cent (compared with 22 per cent in 2007/08) for Year 6 pupils.

The PCT in partnership with the City Council continues to commission a range of universal, targeted and specialist services for adults, children and families in partnership with the City Council, to support people in increasing physical activity levels, improving healthy eating and in reducing levels of the number of those overweight and obese. This includes a range of community programmes through 'Healthy Pompey' such as improving cycling lanes in the city and family weight management programmes targeted at children aged 7-13 years old.

### **Healthy Living Pharmacies**

The HOSP may be interested to know that the City's 37 community pharmacies are being invited to become Healthy Living Pharmacies. As such they will promote health and wellbeing and be equipped to offer services such as weight management, stop smoking, Chlamydia screening or treatment for minor ailments.

NHS Portsmouth is supporting local pharmacies to achieve healthy living pharmacy status and will look at the health needs in the area served by the pharmacy to help them decide which new services to run.

NHS Portsmouth has worked closely with the local pharmacy committee and other local stakeholders in developing a flexible, 3-level framework. The first pharmacies could be awarded healthy living pharmacy status by the summer of this year.

Reaction by pharmacy teams to stakeholder events and training sessions has been positive. Pharmacy team members understand the need to work differently. To support this, the PCT has teamed up with Learning Links to deliver a training course of 5 half days for an existing employee within each community pharmacy to become a health trainer champion. This course provides specific training around brief interventions, healthy living and sign posting to other services. Many pharmacies are already delivering some of the services in the framework and are keen to share their experiences to make improvements.

When NHS Portsmouth awards Healthy Living Pharmacy status, customers and patients will notice the healthy living pharmacy branding, increased health promotion and a greater number of services available. The in-store health trainer champion will lead the whole team in developing their abilities to signpost services, offer advice and consider customers' and patients' holistic wellbeing.

I hope this gives you a useful update.

Yours sincerely



Rob Dalton  
**Director of Corporate and Support Services**

