

## HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held in the Civic Offices on Tuesday 9 November 2010 at 2pm.

### **Present**

Councillors Lynne Stagg (Chair)  
Margaret Adair  
Keith Evans  
Margaret Foster  
Jacqui Hancock  
David Horne  
Robin Sparshatt

### **Co-opted Members**

Keith Evans, Hampshire County Council

### **Also in Attendance**

Allison Stratford, Associate Director of Communications.  
Lt Col Andy Neaves RAMC  
Cdr Chris Robson RN

**67 Welcome, Membership and Any Apologies for Absence (AI 1).**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillors Dorothy Denston and Patricia Stallard sent their apologies.

**68 Declarations of Interest (AI 2).**

No declarations were made.

**69 Deputations from the Public Under Standing Order No. 24 (AI 3).**

No deputations had been received.

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on 19 October 2010 (AI 4).**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held on 19 October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the removal of Councillor Dorothy Denston from the attendance list.

**70 Update from the Previous Meeting (AI 5).**

The Chair asked members if they felt that regular informal meetings with the Chief Executive of NHS Portsmouth would be useful.

The Chair reminded the Panel that details of the Oasis Wellbeing Centre at Queen Alexandra Hospital were sent out with the agenda.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Six-weekly meetings with the Chief Executive of NHS Portsmouth be arranged.**
- 2. The information on the Oasis Wellbeing Centre be noted.**

**71 Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit (AI 6).**

Lt Col Andy Neaves, The Commanding Officer, gave a presentation on the Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit (MDHU) at Queen Alexandra Hospital (QAH). A copy is attached to these minutes as appendix one. During his presentation he raised the following issues:

Most single personnel are accommodated in locally rented flats. Married live in Service Families Accommodation or own property.

At QAH, military staff generally comprise approximately 40% Army, 40% Navy and 20% Royal Air Force.

There are quarterly meetings with Portsmouth Hospitals Trust to negotiate numbers depending on need and staff availability. There are currently 27 MDHU consultants at QAH. Placements match training needs; if there are no appropriate vacancies, the staff will be placed elsewhere in the NHS. In some areas, different members of staff could be in one post every day, which may result in a lack of continuity for the team and daily briefings. Staff on standby cannot be included on duty rotas as they can be deployed at short notice. It is therefore important to manage expectations. A full time employee receives five weeks paid leave. Military staff make up 5% of the total workforce at QAH.

Haslar Royal Navy Hospital was not exclusively for military staff and patients.

With the stock of the medical support to operations is considered to be at its highest ever level. Camp Bastion is considered the leading trauma centre in the world.

The MOD is not responsible for delivery of care at QA which is the responsibility of the NHS, but does monitor the well being of its personnel.

Every year, staff are required to attend an IT security Training and complete their mandated military training.

A tour of duty is for a maximum of eight weeks for consultants as they are on call every day during that stay and can accumulate up to a year's worth of clinical experience during that period. Upon their return they take leave and are then supported in their return to work and training. It is important that their skills do not fade. Other healthcare professionals and other soldiers' tours are longer.

Injured soldiers are returned to the UK as soon as they are stable.

The RFA ARGUS is a casualty receiving ship with hospital standard capabilities.

There are two defence Medical Welfare Officers at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

In response to questions from the Panel, the following points the following points were clarified by both Lt Col Neaves and Cdr Robson:

Councillor Edgar was pleased to inform the Panel that Lt Col Neaves and Cdr Robson had recently been awarded freedom of the city of Gosport.

The Commanding Officer sits on Portsmouth Hospitals' Executive Management team to ensure good communications.

Military staff receive medical training as well as additional military training.

Military staff wear uniform unless they are in the specialist areas, where they wear scrubs.

Only British military staff are placed at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

Cdr Robson arranges staff placements in other locations. For example, military staff who need burns training are sent to specialist centres e.g. Salisbury.

Students and qualified medical staff are recruited to the MOD.

The contract between QA and the MDHU will be extended to 2013.

Councillor Edgar explained that the lectern from St Luke's Chapel at Haslar Hospital had been transferred to Camp Bastion.

The initial treatment for soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress is good. Help for Heroes is investing in respite homes.

Injured soldiers are evacuated as soon as they are stable and taken to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham.

The Chair thanked Lt Col Neaves for his presentation.

**72 Date of Next Meeting (AI 8).**

Friday 17 December.

The meeting closed at 16:05