

Agenda item:

Decision maker: Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Subject: Response to Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Review of Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions

Date of decision: 27 January 2011

Report by: Michael Lawther, City Solicitor and Strategic Director

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Budget and policy framework decision: No

1. Summary

The Scrutiny Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel conducted a review of alcohol related hospital admissions. The Panel wished to know what was being done to tackle the issue of alcohol related admissions in the city, because its admissions are higher than the national average and also the Panel wished to ascertain what improvements could be made to ensure that these issues were being dealt with effectively. A number of recommendations were made by the Panel to the council and external organisations. The responses of the council's officers are set out in the appendix to this report.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to respond to the review into the Panel's report into alcohol related hospital admissions.

3. Background

3.1 At a meeting held on 20 January 2010, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel commenced a review into alcohol related hospital admissions and agreed the terms of reference. On 26 August 2010 the objectives were amended as follows:

1. To understand the national and local picture for alcohol abuse.
2. To understand the number and categories of alcohol related admissions at Queen Alexandra hospital and to evaluate the methods used to record them.
3. To evaluate the impact alcohol abuse has on Portsmouth City Council services.
4. To understand the causes and impact of alcohol abuse on different sections of society.
5. To understand the treatment services available and the referral system.
6. To understand the work carried out in the following areas: prevention of alcohol abuse, treatment services, enforcement and to gain the views of service users and professionals involved.
7. To learn from examples of good practice elsewhere.
9. To develop recommendations to improve the alcohol abuse services in the city



3.2 The conclusions of the Panel are appended to the report, together with the response of the relevant officers.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the Panel is asked to note the officers' responses to the Panel's recommendations.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1 The recommendations set out how the officers propose to respond to the Panel's recommendations.

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

6.1 Where appropriate, the equality impacts of individual recommendations will be assessed by the relevant officers as they are implemented.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. Head of Finance's comments

8.1 Where the costs of the proposed responses to the recommendations cannot be contained within existing cash limits, a budget pressure will need to be put forward as part of the 2012/13 budget process.

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Signed by: Michael Lawther, City Solicitor and Strategic Director

Appendix 1:

Officers' responses to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel's report dated 27 January 2011