



Southampton, Hampshire Isle of Wight & Portsmouth

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Councillor Peter Eddis
Chair
Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Portsmouth City Council
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AZ

Dear Councillor Eddis

SHIP PCT CLUSTER UPDATE MARCH 2013

I understand that the Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update regarding three specific items associated with the NHS Reform Programme. I should therefore like to pass on the following information:-

1. NHS Transition

As you will be well aware, 1st April 2013 marks the official changeover from the 'existing' to 'new' NHS commissioning landscape both locally and nationally as the changes and reorganisation programme that developed from the 2010 NHS White Paper, *Equity and Excellence* formally come into being. Primary Care Trusts across the SHIP PCT Cluster, including Portsmouth City PCT, have been working together to ensure that all their responsibilities are successfully transferred to new host organisations from that date. It is important to note that a number of people have been involved in the associated transition and legacy work programme to ensure that this happens in a coordinated and appropriate way.

NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, having met its requirements under the national authorisation programme, will take up its new role officially from 1st April, commissioning the majority of local health services for people who live and work in the city. Members of the Panel have already been meeting with members of the executive team of the new CCG and there is a commitment from the CCG to develop appropriate and effective working relationships with the Panel as the next few months unfold.

Meanwhile, the local office of the NHS Commissioning Board – that is, the Wessex Area Team based in Southampton - will also formally take on its new functions from 1st April 2013. This includes the following responsibilities:

- To maintain oversight of the CCGs, providing CCG Assurance and supporting these new organisations to be the best that they can be
- To carry out the direct commissioning of a range of specific services for which CCGs will not have responsibility – that is, primary care services, specialist health services, and designated public health services (including screening)
- To ensure the on-going commissioning and delivery of safe, high quality services, by (a) leading the work of the new Quality Surveillance Group (involving a wide range of partners across Wessex Area), and (b) overseeing the new revalidation process for doctors working in this area
- To ensure that there is on-going, robust emergency planning in place across Wessex, and that the local NHS is able to respond in the event of an emergency or major incident
- To work with all local partners to deliver improved outcomes for patients.

The Wessex Area serves the area incorporating nine CCGs – Portsmouth CCG, Southampton City CCG, the Isle of Wight CCG, West Hampshire CCG, North Hampshire CCG, North East Hampshire & Farnham CCG, South Eastern Hampshire CCG, Fareham & Gosport CCG and Dorset CCG

We recognise that there is a lot to take in and understand in terms of this programme of change and these new organisations will be able to supply further information about their roles and responsibilities as required. In the meantime, I have attached a very helpful document that highlights the different commissioning responsibilities of the various bodies under the new arrangements, for your information.

Also attached is a diagram that seeks to provide an overview of the revised health and care system– it is quite ‘busy’ but sets out the organisations that will operate at a local and national level from April.

2. Commissioning of Health Visiting Services

I note that a question on the future commissioning of Health Visiting Services was received from the Panel following its last meeting. I am able to advise that commissioning of 0-5-year-old public health nursing, which includes health visiting and the family nurse partnership, will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) from 1st April, 2013.

For Portsmouth, these responsibilities will be carried out by the small team of public health professionals based within the NHS Commissioning Board (Wessex).

The NHS Commissioning Board is committed to ensuring that the agreed expansion of health visitor numbers is delivered in accordance with existing local plans and that improved outcomes are delivered for children. The current focus is to ensure there is a seamless transition from the PCTs to the new arrangements. These will continue until 31st March, 2015 when this responsibility will revert to local authorities, along with other Children’s commissioning programmes.

With this in mind, the NHS CB Area Team will be seeking to maintain and build on the strong local partnerships that already exist between health and local authorities.

3. NHS 111

The NHS 111 service launched formally on 22nd January and in its first three weeks of operation the service responded to 22,277 calls answered (82.9% of these were answered within the national guideline of 60 seconds. Fewer than 4% of calls directed back to 999 – this suggests callers are beginning to grasp the main message “when you need medical attention fast but it is **not** an emergency, call 111”.

These are early days for the service and work will be continuing to ensure that it is able to respond to enquiries quickly and efficiently during the week and at weekends too. Alongside this we will be looking to ensure that the promotion of the service continues with members of the public. To date this has included a household leaflet drop, posters and leaflets for each GP surgery, media advertising, bus and phone box advertising, and local radio and billboard promotion and we will look to ensure that we continue to promote the service across the city at every opportunity. There is also a useful Q+A guide available for members of the public online which is available here:

<http://www.southamptonhealth.nhs.uk/ship/home/nhs-111/nhs-111-faqs/>

It will be the responsibility of Clinical Commissioning Groups to commission this service in future.

In closing, I write to confirm with the abolition of PCTs at the end of March 2013, this will be the SHIP PCT Cluster's final update to the Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel. It has been a pleasure working with you over the past two years since the PCT Cluster was formed, and I look forward to continuing working closely with you in the future – albeit in my new role as the Area Director for the NHS Commissioning Board (Wessex).

Yours sincerely



D M Fleming (Mrs)
Chief Executive
SHIP PCT Cluster

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