

18 April 2013

To: SHIP region HOSC Chairs

*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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Dear all

Arrangements for Assessing Substantial Change in NHS provision and updated Framework for Assessing Change

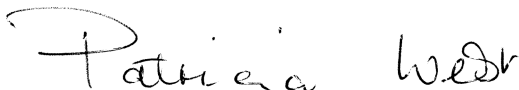
As you may already be aware, recent secondary legislation published by the Government has introduced new obligations to both NHS Bodies, relevant health service providers and local authorities around substantial developments or variations to services to aid transparency and local agreement on proposals. In addition to this, April 1 saw the abolition of NHS primary care trusts and strategic health authorities and the emergence of clinical commissioning groups and local area teams of NHS England as the new commissioners of health services in our region.

Such times of change require us to look at our own policies and frameworks to see if amendments can be made which better set out our responsibilities and those of the organisations we work with. Consequentially, I have asked our scrutiny officer to update the 'Framework for Assessing Change', which has been helpful in setting out the steps that should be taken by NHS Bodies, and now relevant health service providers, in bringing together evidence that supports substantial changes in service.

In preparation for the new administration taking office after the May 2 County elections, I tabled this amended Framework before the Hampshire HOSC on April 16, where it was agreed. I am therefore pleased to be able to share this with you so that you may take it to your own health scrutiny committees or panels, should you wish to continue to use this helpful document. Please note that all officers have had the opportunity to comment on this document prior to it being agreed by Members.

If you require any additional information please do contact me on the details above.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Mrs Pat West
Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

cc SHIP region HOSC officers

Enc.