56. Declaration of Members’ Interests (AI 1)

Councillor Peter Edgar – a member of the Save Haslar Task Force.

57. Welcome

A warm welcome was extended to Dr Gill Underhill (Infection Control Lead Doctor, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust), Mark Price (Acting Director of Strategic Development and Transformation, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust), Judy Hillier (Director of Services, Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust) and Zenna Atkins (Chairman of the Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust).

58. Minutes – Meeting held on 9 November 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting was agreed as a correct record.

59. Cleanliness in Hospitals

Dr Gill Underhill gave a presentation to the Panel on cleanliness in hospitals (a copy of which is attached to the Minute Book as Appendix “A”). The presentation outlined how the Portsmouth NHS Hospitals Trust are planning to reduce their hospital acquired infection rates, and included information on the Clean Your Hands Campaign and a summary of the accompanying action plan. During the presentation Dr Underhill made the following points:
• Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is damaging public confidence in the NHS and affecting its reputation at a national and local level;
• Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is 9th lowest in MRSA specialist hospital league table;
• An Action Group has been established by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and, alongside the Clean Your Hands Campaign, the Trust aimed to have:
  • Alcohol gel available for use at every bedside
  • Posters prompting staff to clean their hands
  • User friendly materials to encourage patients to become involved in their own healthcare
  • An implementation guide
• Cleanliness could also be improved with the prudent use of antibiotics and the promotion on high standards of hygiene in clinical practice;
• The training and education of staff at the Induction stage and throughout their careers would also promote cleanliness;
• There would also be a restructuring of management and cleanliness in hospitals including the creating of key objective for Modern Matrons, empowering matrons and introducing the Matrons Charter;
• By reviewing, and where possible, reducing bed occupancy in high risk areas and by reducing the number of inter hospital transfers, particularly of patients with known infection, the risk of infection could be greatly reduced
• It was also important to involve the patients in the action plan, and provide information to patients and relatives;
• A proactive step could be the implementation of a Think Clean day, including road shows and videos, promoting cleanliness and raising the profile of work being done to make hospitals safer and cleaner;
• A robust plan was needed which would reduce infection rates, however this will take time, costs associated with the implementation of the plan will have be identified and submitted to Service Planning.

Following questions Members were reassured that steps were being taken to guarantee uniforms would only be worn in the work place and not to and from work, as this was a major factor in the spread of infection. Members were also informed that appropriate steps would be taken to ensure that the proposed work due to take place at Queen Alexandra Hospital and the consequent dust and noise would be kept to a minimum.

Mark Price, Acting Director of Strategic Development and Transformation, agreed to provide a response for Members to the following questions:

i) The developing roles of Modern Matrons;
ii) Who was responsible for the cleaning of services like Patient Line; and
iii) What more would be done to stop staff uniforms being worn outside of the work place.

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Portsmouth City PCT and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust for their interesting and informative presentation.
Feedback from Health Scrutiny Event – 10 November 2004

Sam Meyer, Democratic Support Officer, presented notes of a Health Scrutiny Event held by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority in Winchester on 10 November 2004 (a copy of which are attached to the Minute Book as Appendix “B”). Members were informed that the purpose of the Event was to:

1. Provide an opportunity for the NHS to share with scrutiny partners thinking to date on the Locality Delivery Agreements – part of the HealthFit programme that sets out a strategic framework for the development of sustainable, affordable and efficient health services for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; and
2. To develop a mutual understanding between the NHS and its scrutiny partners on how to work with them and patients and the public in developing and then implementing proposals that arise from the work programmes set out in the Locality Delivery Agreements.

Members were informed that the attendees were divided into geographical work groups, which then had regionally focused discussions and presentations. The Portsmouth and South East Hampshire group outlined the following as their major concern:

Greater involvement and liaison with Ambulance Services, Local Councils and the Public needed.

This was then broken into three separate areas: Long Term Illness, Emergency Care, and Day Surgery. The work groups decided that:

i. there was a definite need for joined up service;
ii. easily identifiable focus groups were needed;
iii. there was a need for clear general and detailed Strategies;
iv. Patients should be asked their views; and
v. Where there were successes, these should be celebrated.

These, along with recommendations from the other regional work groups, were then passed to Gareth Cruddace (Chief Executive of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Strategic Health Authority) who thanked those present for their views and opinions. He outlined how they hoped the Event would look at patient and public involvement from the perspectives of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Patient and Public Involvement forums, as well as from that of the health service and from members of the public, and how he believed that aim had been achieved. Gareth Cruddace acknowledged in a letter sent to participants following the event that the day was only part of a whole engagement agenda, but that it had successfully sparked a range of thoughts and ideas that will be now consider by local health service providers in order to take the work forward. Furthermore he stated that there would undoubtedly be further debates to come.
61. Feedback from Joint Health Committee – 8 December 2004

Councillor Ray Ellis gave feedback to the Panel from the meeting of the Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Health Scrutiny Joint Committee that was held in Winchester on 8 December 2004.

During the meeting the Joint Health Committee received a project update on Adolescent Mental Health Services at Tatchbury Mount Hospital. Members were informed that outline planning permission for the site had been approved and it was envisaged that work would commence on the unit in December 2005 and be completed in June 2007.

Members also received a presentation from representatives of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the strategic Health Authority on the Framework for Assessing Substantial Change to NHS Provision. It was noted by those present that it was necessary to find local solutions to local problems and that contextual dialogue was needed between Overview and Scrutiny Panels and NHS organisations to establish if a proposal was sustainable in nature. At the meeting Denise Holden, Scrutiny Support Manager for Hampshire County Council, presented a report for the Framework for Assessing substantial change for NHS provision, which had been agreed by Hampshire’s Health Review Committee. The Joint Health Committee approved the report and invited NHS organisations and other partners to comment on the framework.

62. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Forward Work Programme

Saskia Kiernan, Scrutiny Support Manager, presented a report updating Members on developments in relation to the forward work programme (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix “C”).

The report outlined how the Panel had recently completed taking evidence for the review of Child Health, concentrating on diet, obesity and exercise. This evidence will be collated and considered by the Panel informally over the next few weeks. The delay in completing this review has been due to the increased number of witnesses that were invited by the Panel to submit evidence. As a result of the delay in completing the review of child health and the imminent commencement of the consultation on the future provision of Maternity Services, the Panel considered revising the schedule of reviews.

Members were also informed that the procurement of a privately run NHS Treatment Centre, formerly referred to as an Independent Sector Treatment Centre, at St Mary’s Hospital has previously been discussed by this Panel. At the invitation of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Panel were appointed to the stakeholder group that was established to provide a consultative forum for the duration of the project. The role of the stakeholder group was subsequently taken on by the Portsmouth City PCT’s Citizen’s Panel and it was suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair attend meetings of the Citizens Panel when this item is being considered and provide progress reports to this Panel.
RESOLVED:

1. That current progress with the agreed work programme be noted;
2. That the Chair and Vice Chair attend meetings of Portsmouth City PCT’s Citizens Panel to keep a watching brief over the development of the NHS Treatment Centre at St. Mary’s;
3. That the delay experienced in completing the review of Child Health – Obesity, Diet and Exercise be noted; and
4. That the in-depth review of oral health and dentistry be delayed until the completion of the Maternity Services consultation.

63. Member Report – Councillor Peter Edgar

Councillor Peter Edgar presented an information report to the Panel updating members on recent developments involving the Queen Alexandra Hospital Private Finance Initiative and Community Service Provision in Fareham and Gosport (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix “D”).

The Panel were informed that the recommendations contained within the report had been agreed by an Extraordinary Meeting of Gosport Borough Council on 1 December 2004.

64. Date of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 21 January 2005.

The meeting closed at 6.27pm.

Chairman