PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM THE NHS TO VARY OR DEVELOP LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. Purpose

This purpose of this report is to

- Inform the Panel about proposals that have been received from the local NHS to vary or develop local health services
- Update the Panel on the progress of issues previously reported, including the work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Inform the Panel about national developments in the NHS or health related services

2. Recommendations

The Panel is recommended to

Approve the recommendations set out in bold type in paragraphs 4.3 – 6.6.

3. Background

3.1 The Panel is reminded that the National Health Service Act 2006 places a duty on strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts to make arrangements to consult patients and the public about on-going service planning, on proposals for service development and change and on decisions that may affect how services operate. The Act also places a statutory duty on NHS bodies to consult all affected Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSC) on any proposal for the development or variation of local health services. If an overview and scrutiny committee considers the proposal to be substantial it will be subject to formal scrutiny by the committee.

3.2 Guidance published by the Department of Health recommends that proposals for service change are discussed with all affected overview and scrutiny committees at an early stage in order to agree whether or not a proposal is considered by the committee to be substantial. In addition, a local framework for assessing whether a service development is substantial was jointly agreed by the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Joint Committee in March 2005.
3.3 When dealing with proposals for a substantial development or variation by an NHS body, where more than one HOSC is consulted, a joint HOSC committee covering all the local authorities affected by the proposals must be formed for the purposes of responding to the NHS. Members will be aware that four local Joint HOSCs have previously been established which include representatives from this Panel, one covering the area covering Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, as referred to in paragraph 3.2 above, and the other two with representatives from Hampshire County Council to review maternity services (not presently active) and elderly medicine services. A Joint Committee has also been established to respond to proposals around the provision of acute services in West Sussex. Updates on all of these are given below.

3.4 HOSCs also have a statutory role to play in considering whether an NHS body has satisfactorily complied with its responsibility under Section 242 of the National Health Service Act 2006\(^1\) to consult with patients and the public about any proposal to vary a service. An OSC may give consideration to this aspect of a NHS proposal whether the proposal is considered by the OSC to be substantial or not.

**Quarterly Letters**

3.5 The Panel receives regular quarterly updates on developments in services from:

- Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust
- Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- The City Council’s Health, Housing and Social Care Directorate
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust

A copy of those quarterly letters received in time for this meeting are attached to this report.

4. **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

**Maternity Services in South East Hampshire**

4.1 The Panel will be aware that the Joint HOSC established to scrutinise proposals for maternity services in Portsmouth and south east Hampshire last met on 6 June 2007. At that meeting it was agreed that the Portsmouth and Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees would consider developments in maternity services separately, unless matters are again considered by each to affect directly both populations. This Panel has subsequently begun to scrutinise Portsmouth City PCT’s options for the model of care that will be provided in a new stand-alone midwife led birth centre located on Portsea Island. (NB: This matter is referred to elsewhere on the agenda.)

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\(^1\) Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, relating to public involvement and consultation, has been replaced by Section 242 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
4.2 The Panel will also recall that Hampshire PCT has commenced a public consultation on proposals for services for maternity services in south east Hampshire. A copy of the letter received from Hampshire PCT asking for this Panel’s views on the options presented by the PCT is attached to this report as Appendix A and copies of the consultation document have been circulated to the Panel under separate cover. As this consultation primarily affects Hampshire residents and services the Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake formal scrutiny of the proposals.

4.3 Members will note, however, that 3 of the 4 options under discussion include the continued provision of a co-located midwife unit at St Mary’s Hospital, which will then move to Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham in 2009. This could mean that after 2009 Portsmouth women will be able to choose from the following when they have a baby:

- Home birth
- Stand alone midwife-led birth centre located on Portsea Island (model to be determined following the process described in paragraph 4.1)
- Main consultant-led Obstetric Unit located at Queen Alexandra Hospital
- Co-located, midwife unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital (dependent on the outcome of the Hampshire PCT consultation)

4.4 Assurances have been sought from Portsmouth City PCT that Portsmouth women will still be able to choose the co-located unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital, should it be commissioned by Hampshire PCT. This will be in addition to the new midwife led stand-alone birth centre that is being commissioned for Portsea Island. However, in order to ensure that this choice is still available it is suggested that the Panel formally express its support for the unit to both Hampshire PCT and Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore recommended that the Panel give authority to the Chairman to write to both Hampshire PCT and Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny to express support for the continued provision of the co-located unit.

Fit for the Future: Proposals for West Sussex

4.5 On 18 April 2007 the Panel met to consider proposals for the reconfiguration of acute health services across Surrey and Sussex. Despite a lack of information made available by the lead PCT for this process the Panel decided that the proposals in respect of acute hospital provision in West Sussex were likely to constitute a substantial variation in health services for Portsmouth residents. Since that meeting a Joint HOSC has been established in accordance with regulations with representation from West Sussex, Hampshire, East Sussex, and Surrey County Councils and Portsmouth and Brighton and Hove City Councils.

4.6 The Joint Committee has met on three occasions. At the second meeting the Committee decided to refer its concerns about the conduct and timing of West Sussex PCT’s consultation process to the Secretary of State for Health. This
referral was sent on 24 August and included evidence contributed by this Panel. A copy of the referral letter is attached to this report as Appendix B. The Secretary of State has subsequently indicated that the referral will be passed to the Independent reconfiguration Panel for consideration. However, the Joint HOSC has also decided that because the proposals are of considerable interest and concern to the localities affected it will continue with the scrutiny of the options presented. The evidence gathering necessary for this aspect of the scrutiny process is underway and officers supporting this Panel are continuing to contribute support to West Sussex County Council, the lead authority affected. It is therefore recommended that regular updates on the progress of the referral and the scrutiny process be reported both to this Panel and to all the Panel’s key local stakeholders, such as MPs and the Patient and Public Involvement Forums.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Networks

4.7 The Panel’s Chairman and Vice Chairman participate in two health overview and scrutiny networks, one mirroring the area covered by the South Central Strategic Health Authority and the South Central Ambulance Service, the other covering the South East region. These networks provide an opportunity to coordinate issues of shared interest and to share good practice in health scrutiny.

4.8 The South Central network last met on 18 July 2007 and discussed the development of LINKs across the area and received an update on Department of Health’s plans for community hospitals. This latter issue was reported to this Panel on 6 June 2007. A copy of the update on community hospitals was circulated to the network in July and is attached to this report as Appendix C. The South Central network is next scheduled to meet on 26 November 2007 in Bracknell Forrest.

4.9 The South East network also last met in July and agreed to undertake some development work around increasing participants’ knowledge and understanding of the role of commissioning in the NHS. It is recommended that updates on the work undertaken by these networks and on the development of community hospitals continue to be reported regularly to this Panel

5. Proposals Received to Vary or Develop Local Health Services

The proposals that are set out below have been the subject of formal notification from the NHS, either by email or letter.

Business Case for GP Premises in Buckland

5.1 Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust has notified the Panel that the PCT Board is scheduled to consider a business case for a move of premises for two GP practices in Buckland. Details of the proposals are set out in an email from the PCT, which is attached as Appendix D. The Panel will note that some consultation has been carried out with the patents of one of the GPs
affected, but not the other. It is therefore suggested that the PCT be asked to ensure that this consultation be carried out should the business case be approved and the outcomes reported back to the Panel in due course.

Delivering Transformational Change – South Central Ambulance Service

5.2 At the Panel meeting on 20 June 2007 representatives from South Central Ambulance Service indicated that the Trust was in the process of developing a new Service Strategy and Business Plan. A copy of this Plan has now been made available to the Panel via the South Central HOSC network and it is accompanied by a consultation document entitled ‘Delivering Transformational Change’. This sets out proposals for a new service delivery model for the ambulance service, with changes to the way in which calls are dealt with and responded to. A copy of the Trust’s letter setting out its consultation plans is attached to this report as Appendix E. As the proposals for the new delivery model affect services across the south central area it is likely that the South Central HOSC will consider this issue network in due course. It is therefore recommended that the Chairman and Vice Chairman ensure that these proposals continue to be closely monitored and referred back to this Panel where appropriate.

5.3 The consultation document also proposes changes to the configuration of call centres within the South Central region, with a new combined centre planned for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The papers indicate that the lease on the Hampshire call centre at Highcroft, near Winchester, is due to expire in December 2008 but the Trust indicates that it will still retain a centre nearby. As it is difficult at this stage to determine whether this aspect of the proposals will have any impact on services for Portsmouth residents it is again suggested that the Chairman and Vice chairman closely monitor how they develop.

6. Other Issues

LINks

6.1 The Panel will recall that the government is in the process of changing the way in which patients and the public will be involved in scrutinising both the NHS and social care. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill is currently making its way through the House of Lords. When enacted this will introduce a Local Involvement Network (LINks) for each local authority area with social services responsibility, replacing existing patient and public involvement forums. It is anticipated that the LINk will need to develop a close relationship with health scrutiny and will have the power to refer matters to committees and receive a response.

6.2 Initial guidance on LINks has been issued to local authorities by the Department of Health and work is underway in the Community Involvement, Empowerment and Development (CIED) Team at the City Council to establish a LINk in Portsmouth. A copy of briefing note issued recently by The
CIED team is attached to this report as Appendix F. The DH Guidance has indicated that health overview and scrutiny committees should play a key role in scrutinising how the contracting process for LINks has been undertaken to ensure that best value is achieved. As such it is recommended that this Panel continue to receive reports on the development of LINks locally.

Wide Ranging Review of NHS Services: Letter from Professor Sir Ara Darzi

6.3 On 4 July 2007 the government announced a wide arranging review of NHS services, which will be led by Professor Sir Ara Darzi. The statement issued by the Secretary of State in July, a copy of which is attached to this report as Appendix G, indicates that the review will produce an interim report in October and will conclude in June 2008. It is suggested that the outcomes of the review are reported to the Panel in due course.

Health Improvement and Development Team – HIDS Festival 9 October 2007

6.4 The Panel may be aware that the City Council’s Health Improvement and Development Team (HIDs) has recently undergone some restructuring and a new Health Improvement Manager has been appointed. HIDs has indicated that it would like to work more closely with the Panel in the future to help raise awareness of the City Council’s responsibility to improve health and well being for residents. In addition, the service is hosting a ‘HIDs Fest’ on 9 October 2007 and is keen that Members come along and find out about the range of activities with which HIDs is involved.

Car Parking at St Mary’s and Queen Alexandra Hospitals

6.5 The Panel has previously expressed concern about car parking in and around St. Mary’s and Queen Alexandra Hospitals. Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has indicated that the situation has not changed significantly since the Panel last considered the matter in January 2007. Both the Trust and our own Parking Services have provided an update and this is attached as Appendix H. The Trust has suggested that they provide a further formal update to the Panel next summer. It is therefore recommended that this item be included in the Panel’s work programme for 2007-2008.

Background Papers:

None