



SHIP PCT CLUSTER
serving Southampton City, Hampshire,
Isle of Wight and Portsmouth City

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9th March, 2012

Councillor P. Eddis
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Portsmouth City Council
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
PO1 2AZ

Dear Councillor Eddis

SHIP PCT Cluster Update March 2012

As requested, there is one update in this letter and a response to the Panel's request for information on annual diabetes checks. I would also like to bring to the Panel's attention four new items that may be of interest. These are set out below.

1. Update: Children's Oral Health

a. NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme

The 2011/12 dental health survey of 5-year-old children is currently being conducted in all schools in England, including Portsmouth primary schools. The survey will measure prevalence and severity of dental caries in 5-year-old children and will provide standardised information to enable comparison of children's oral health locally, regionally and nationally.

Data collection will be completed by 30th June 2012 and following processing and validation, the data will be published by the national team in March 2013. We have asked the community dental service to ensure parental consent levels for their children to participate in the survey are available by each school. This will enable targeted interventions in schools with lower uptake to increase participation in future surveys.

b. Oral Health Promotion

The Dental Academy continues to provide a range of public health interventions to all patients accessing their service including smoking cessation and healthy eating. An oral health promotion programme is being offered to all Portsmouth primary schools covering supervised tooth-brushing and fluoride varnish. So far the following schools have agreed to participate in the Dental Academy programme: Cumberland Infants, Copnor Infants, College Park, Meredith Infants,

Moorings Way, Charles Dickens, University Nursery, Cottage Grove, Stamshaw Infants, Goldsmith Infants, Highbury Primary, Somers Park, Penhale Infants, Milton Park and Medina Infants.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust continues to offer a supervised tooth-brushing programme to up to 57 nursery settings per year in Portsmouth including all day nurseries, maintained nurseries and pre-school play groups. This programme is also offered to all Portsmouth Special Schools.

2. Panel Request for Information: Annual Diabetes Checks

The Panel has requested the current situation for NHS Portsmouth and SHIP wide in respect of annual health checks for diabetes.

As indicated in that request, for NHS Portsmouth 46 per cent of registered diabetic patients received all nine diabetes care processes in 2009/10. This ranked NHS Portsmouth 106th out of 152 PCTs. Locally, this compares with Southampton ranked at 143rd with around 35 per cent, Hampshire 90th with 49 per cent and the Isle of Wight 104th with 48 per cent. The national average had an equivalent ranking of 84th with 50 per cent.

The 2009/10 figures for NHS Portsmouth indicate an improvement in eight of the nine care processes when compared with 2008/09. The exception to improvement was smoking which was slightly lower than 2008/09; please see Appendix 1. The Panel will also note that the percentage of patients with the albumin care process recorded is relatively low (64 per cent). However, the percentages for each of the other eight processes are much higher and in the range 79 per cent to 95 per cent.

Data for 2010/11 is currently being analysed by the National Clinical Audit Support Programme and PCTs/PCT Clusters will be notified as soon as the report is available. We will be pleased to provide the Panel with an update in respect of the SHIP PCT Cluster at that time. Meanwhile, in Portsmouth a tender has recently been awarded to provide a community diabetes service for the city. This will enhance annual health checks by enabling primary care to manage and monitor diabetes better.

3. New items

a. Fracture Liaison Service

The provision of a fracture liaison service is currently being discussed by Clinical Commissioning Group leads from Fareham and Gosport, South East Hampshire and Portsmouth. This will be a service for people aged over fifty who, having previously enjoyed good health, may be developing osteoporosis and fragile bones.

When a man or woman aged over the age of fifty presents with their first broken bone from a fall that would not normally be expected to have resulted in a fracture, they will be automatically assessed for osteoporosis. Treatment can then be provided at that point to reduce the chance of further broken bones.

By providing appropriate medication for people with reduced bone strength to improve it and thereby reducing their risk of further fractures, avoidable pain and disability is prevented and independence maintained in the long term. In addition, sound economic modelling at national level has demonstrated cost savings to the NHS.

Over the coming months Clinical Commissioning Group leads will develop a model which they feel best suits local needs and will be opening discussions with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust which they hope will host the service.

b. End of Life Care

Local concern about end of life care resulting in an Independent Reconfiguration Panel review into the closure of G5, an end of life care ward at Queen Alexandra Hospital, resulted in a series of recommendations. These recommendations included the requirement for Hampshire and Portsmouth PCTs to engage with patients and the public to re-appraise their end of life strategy and plans.

These plans engage the local health economy under the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) Plan for 2011 to 2014. The QIPP end of life work stream follows research at national and local level which has shown that the quality of care delivered across the country has been very variable. The Government's response in its White Paper "Equity and Excellence, Liberating the NHS" was that: "we will move towards a national choice offer to support people's preferences about how to have a good death, and we will work with providers, including hospices to ensure that people have the support they need".

Locally, a Portsmouth and South East Hampshire End of Life Strategy Steering Group has been set up. This comprises representatives from across the statutory and voluntary and community sectors and is chaired by Dr Jon Price, a local GP. SHIP PCT Cluster commissioners for end of life care in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire have set up a Patient and Public Reference Group to ensure the views of patients and members of the public inform this work stream. The work of this group will complement the End of Life Care Advisory Panel run by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. Both groups have representation on the End of Life Steering Group. This work is further supported by a communications and engagement plan for the locality which will be reviewed at Steering Group meetings

c. Minor Oral Surgery

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has recently been under scrutiny regarding meeting the eighteen-week referral to treatment standard in a number of clinical areas. Work with clinicians within the Trust has highlighted that there are a number of adult minor oral surgery procedures performed under local anaesthetic that do not require to be performed in an acute hospital setting and could be done in the community by general dental practitioners. This would increase patient choice of provider for such procedures and enable patients to access care closer to home in some cases. This would only be for adult local anaesthetic minor oral procedure which are mainly tooth extractions and not for anything that is required to be performed under a general anaesthetic or is for patients under eighteen years of age.

It is therefore proposed that minor tooth extractions are decommissioned in 2012/13 with a view to developing an 'any willing provider approach' for minor oral surgery. This will be with the development of a referral management system to ensure that education, training and feedback is given to General Dental Practitioners to reduce inappropriate referrals.

d. Pain Pathway

The Panel will recall from previous NHS Portsmouth updates that a public health review of chronic pain services across Portsmouth and South East Hampshire was instructed in 2009. The review looked at the clinical effectiveness of procedures offered to patients, usually in a secondary care system, including procedures that have provided short term only pain relief.

The review concluded that there was only limited clinical evidence available for many of the treatments that were provided within chronic pain services. The review was expanded, at the request of commissioners, to clarify the evidence available for procedures that may have some clinical efficacy. The purpose of this was to clarify the most appropriate time for that intervention to be introduced and for how long.

The review concluded that there was evidence to commission only a limited number of clinical interventions. These include urgent procedures for cancer, complex regional syndrome, vascular limb insufficiencies, short term lumbar epidurals for spinal radicular pain and short term management of neuropathic pain.

Evidence strongly suggests that chronic pain responds to self management and cognitive behaviour therapy, both of which are available in community pain services. It was therefore recommended that this should be the first intervention in treating chronic pain conditions.

Where there is clinical evidence to support this, commissioners across Portsmouth City, Fareham and Gosport and South East Clinical Commissioning Groups will continue to commission procedures from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. For procedures where there is limited or no evidence to support commissioning, we are working closely with clinicians and managers from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust to develop a decommissioning plan. All patients who are currently on a waiting list or are under active treatment at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust will receive/complete their course of treatment.

Funding has been made available from the Strategic Health Authority to trial an on-line pain management programme for a limited number of patients. This will be available for patients in primary care and those that are currently under follow up review at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Tiller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sara Tiller
Director Communications and Engagement
SHIP PCT Cluster