



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

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16<sup>th</sup> November, 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 July 2012**

There are four updates I wish to bring to the Panel's attention. These are set out below.

#### **1. Choose Well Campaign**

In July the SHIP PCT Cluster offered to share its plans for the Choose Well Campaign this autumn. This is now attached for the Panel's information at Appendix 1.

Locally we have a number of initiatives in progress for Choose Well, including:

- Distribution of localised leaflets and posters as part of the national campaign
- Working with partners (including the local CCGs, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, the Strategic Health Authority and others) to look at developing a specific campaign for the Portsmouth area, using the brand 'A&E means Accident & Emergency not Anything & Everything' and promoting this through various media and communications routes
- A Child Health booklet and interactive Choose Well game aimed at parents/carers of 0-4 year olds, with supporting communications activity.

#### **2. NHS111**

The full NHS111 service will not 'go-live' until late January 2013. Once live, the service will replace NHS Direct and will take all calls from patients wanting to access GP services when surgeries are closed (Out of Hours services).

At present all patient calls to Out of Hours services are directed to the following number 01962 718697. The calls are triaged by call handlers using the same processes as the 111 service. Calls finish either with patients being advised:

- To make a GP appointment 'in-hours'
- To self-manage their health concern
- To visit a pharmacist for advice and medication
- That an Out of Hours GP will make contact with them shortly

Once the NHS111 number is live the Department of Health will run a countywide marketing campaign using print and radio advertising as well as outdoor poster sites and a leaflet drop to all households. This will be accompanied by promotion within GP surgeries and other community outlets across the two cities and the county.

### **3. NHS Equality Delivery System**

Since the PCT Cluster's report to the Panel in March 2012, Equality Objectives for 2012/13, development with patients and the public have been incorporated into business planning. As NHS transition progresses, these objectives have been adopted by developing Clinical Commissioning Groups in their own business plans. Milestones within each objective will be reviewed in January 2013 as part of business planning processes for 2013/14.

In the meantime, the PCT Cluster has completed an Equality and Diversity Assurance Checklist at the request of South Central Strategic Health Authority. The purpose of this checklist was to provide evidence on compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and to serve as the South of England legacy for the emerging new NHS. It showed that the PCT Cluster was well underway in completing actions to meet the Duty.

### **4. NHS Transition**

Seven of the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) within the SHIP Cluster (including Portsmouth) have now had their panel visits which form part of the authorisation process prior to them becoming approved as commissioning organisations in their own right from April 2013. The panel visit for the final local CCG to be assessed, Southampton, takes place towards the end of this month.

The authorisation process is a stringent examination of CCGs' readiness for formally assuming responsibility for local commissioning of NHS services, with over 100 'key lines of enquiry' to be met. It is expected that all CCGs will be authorised by April 2013, though some may have approval conditions attached, as appropriate to their stage of development.

You may wish to know that the Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group will hold the first meeting in public of its Governing Body on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at St James' Hospital, at which an update on progress with authorisation will be given. HOSP members are, of course, very welcome to attend if they wish.

Alongside this, Commissioning Support South (CSS), the new body that will be offering commissioning support services to local CCGs, is also passing through the various checkpoint stages it needs to negotiate prior to its formal approval. The organisation will provide a range of support services (including support around contracting, quality, communications, financial information and information technology) on a shared basis to those CCGs who are not proposing to supply these themselves.

Meanwhile, the Local Area Team for the NHS Commissioning Board (NCB) which covers the Wessex area (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset including Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth and Poole) is moving ahead with its development plans, too. The NCB will be responsible for ensuring that the NHS delivers better outcomes for patients within its available resources by providing leadership in the delivery of the NHS Outcomes Framework, supporting Clinical Commissioning Groups and holding them to account.

The NCB will also hold direct responsibility for commissioning a range of services – those that are best commissioned at a national or regional level (for example major trauma services or specialist burns care) along with very local primary care services where it would be inappropriate for CCGs to commission from their own member practices.

Debbie Fleming, currently chief executive of the SHIP PCT Cluster, has been appointed to the role of Local Area Team Director for the Wessex area and now has a senior team in place to support her in that role.

The NHS Commissioning Board takes on its full statutory responsibilities in April 2013. In the meantime, all current NHS planning and delivery responsibilities remain with the Department of Health, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

The four local primary care trusts across the SHIP Cluster are now in the process of ensuring that their 'close down' is handled effectively and efficiently, so that future responsibilities are assigned correctly and all legacy matters recorded and stored appropriately in line with national guidance.

I hope this gives you a useful update.

Yours sincerely

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

**Sara Tiller**  
**Interim Director Communications and Engagement**  
**SHIP PCT Cluster**