

22 January 2018

Cllr Leo Madden  
HOSP Chair  
Portsmouth City Council  
3rd Floor, Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth PO1 2AL

Dear Cllr Madden,

### **Update for Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

This letter is intended to provide you and the members of the Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an overview of some of the work the Clinical Commissioning Group has been involved with over the past few months.

This formal update is in addition to the regular informal meetings with you and your Panel colleagues which, I hope, continue to be useful for all concerned.

Our website – [www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk](http://www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk) – may provide some further details about what we do if members are interested, but of course we are always happy to facilitate direct discussions if there are particular issues which are of interest to the Panel.

#### **1        Winter resilience and flu**

You will be aware that demand on NHS and care services has intensified locally, regionally and nationally over winter, with sustained pressure being experienced over Christmas and the New Year in particular due to a combination of circumstances.

In spite of a comprehensive and coordinated local plan being in place to manage surge and escalation pressures over winter, the Christmas and New Year period was extremely difficult for health services across the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire system. As with the position nationally, higher than expected demand and high flu levels impacted on staffing and capacity across the system. The efforts and dedication of frontline care staff over this period warrant special mention, alongside the support from many other staff behind the scenes, which should also be recognised.

All local partners continue to work on delivering the plan, which includes the implementation of a number of schemes to enhance our response across the area. This has included enhanced access to primary care, greater support to care homes for when they need to deal with emergency situations, reducing some elective activity at QA Hospital, creating a designated frailty unit at the hospital and many others. A number of these were developed as a result of lessons learned from last winter.

We were also able to secure around £2m additional investment to provide extra capacity (although this was not received until early December). This has, though, enabled us to implement a further set of initiatives which are now beginning to have an impact.

## **2      Health and Care Portsmouth: working with the voluntary sector**

We have been working closely with Portsmouth City Council and organisations within the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), on a range of issues to support the development of Health and Care within Portsmouth.

Through a joint initiative known as Project Bridge, plans for a Sitting Service to help people who are cared for, and their carers, are being developed by a range of organisations working together on a collaborative basis.

Additional plans are also underway to reshape existing services in the city for an integrated social prescribing service. We are committed to commissioning an integrated social prescribing service available to all adults, regardless of age, who need it within the city. We have tested a couple of schemes already over the past couple of years (the Living Well and Signposting Services programmes), and whilst these will not be continuing beyond their existing contracts they have proved very useful in helping us further shape our thoughts for the future.

A bid for funding by The YOU Trust, with support from the CCG and the Council, has been submitted to the Department of Health and we should hear soon whether or not this has been successful. If it is, we will instigate a procurement process for an integrated Social Prescribing Service.

In the future, we want to provide a stronger Single Point of Contact providing advice and information for health and care professionals to access the VCS for patients.

The objectives of this will enable patients to learn about the possibilities open to them and to help ‘co-produce’ their own social prescription for social, emotional or practical needs, with an anticipated outcome of improving their health and wellbeing.

This should result in reduced reliance on statutory health and care services whilst further strengthening relationships between statutory and non-statutory organisations, with the potential for the VCS to play an increased role in future in helping people manage their own conditions within a community setting, and maximise independent living.

Once the DH has announced the outcome of the application process for the initiative, we will ensure that ongoing plans are shared with wider stakeholders and referrers. In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to the VCS for engaging with us and the Council on these projects, and for all their hard work within the City.

### **3 Your Big Health Conversation Engagement Programme**

We are embarking on Phase 2 of our ‘Your Big Health Conversation’ engagement programme in the city, and across Gosport, Fareham and South East Hampshire too.

Our intention behind this programme is to do two specific things. Firstly, to begin a ‘plain English’ conversation with local people (across Portsmouth and South East Hampshire) about the challenges facing the NHS in this area and the likely consequences of those challenges, and secondly to start the process of gathering feedback about potential changes to services in the future.

As you will recall the first phase was conducted as an online survey that provided us with lots of useful information about what local people want to see from their local NHS.

This next phase will help us further as we use the feedback we have already received, alongside other key factors such as funding, staffing, demand and clinical evidence to consider how the NHS will need to change in the future.

We know our broad outline in terms of strategy – building up stronger teams of staff in the community, moving care out of major hospitals, doing more to keep people healthy and independent, while funding and staffing will remain tight – but we now want people to remain involved in helping us build the more detailed picture.

Our plans for phase 2 focus on discussing different scenarios with people about how care is delivered now, and what it might look like in future, for example:

- A person with one or more long term illnesses
- A person with a long term mental health condition
- A person who is particularly frail – elderly, vulnerable to sudden health crisis and at risk of needing emergency hospital care
- A person who is usually healthy, with only occasional health problems, who may need to access help quickly

These have been chosen because they are relevant to large numbers of people, and are likely to be the areas where we could see the biggest changes. For each we will set out a current and possible future model of care and ask people about what does or doesn’t feel right, any concerns they have or anything that the NHS may be missing out on.

Our intention is to offer people a range of different opportunities to engage with us over these scenarios but we envisage much more face to face discussion and activity than with phase 1.

Ultimately this engagement activity will support the development of new systems of NHS care both within Portsmouth, and across the wider local health economy. We will of course be happy to share the results of this phase of the programme in due course.

#### **4      Surgery moves and changes**

##### Practice merger: Trafalgar Medical Group and Eastney Practices

In November 2017 the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee, which meets in public, approved an application from the Trafalgar Medical Group and Eastney Practices to merge.

Planning for this merger has been in place for quite some time and involved ongoing patient engagement in line with guidance from the CCG and NHS England. The merger will provide both practices with a greater degree of resilience and will also have a number of benefits to patients, including regular Saturday morning opening with the potential to review further extended hours access with additional nursing staff, and an increase in services available to all patients with each being able to benefit from services run by its partner, with potential to develop more. The practices are already co-located on the same site (Eastney Health Centre) and are currently on the same IT system (SystmOne).

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Elizabeth Fellows**  
**Chair, NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group**