

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**
Date: **16th June 2008**
By: **Director of Law and Personnel**
Title of report: **Strategy for Older People's Mental Health Services**
Purpose of report: **To give the background on the presentation on the strategy for Older People's Mental Health Service.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to:

1. Consider and comment on the strategy for Older People's Mental Health Services.

1. Background

1.1 Since the formation of Sussex Partnership NHS Trust in April 2006 covering East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex, East Sussex HOSC has had regular updates from the Trust's executives on various strategic aspects of the service.

1.2 In March 2008, Andrew Dean, Associate Director Older People's and Forensic Services, Sussex Partnership Trust outlined plans for a continued reduction in bed based provision in favour of community based care. HOSC set up a Task Group to scrutinise various issues such as consultation plans and investment in community services relating to the Trust's proposals for in-patient beds currently located at Beechwood Unit, Uckfield and Milton Court Unit, Eastbourne. The work of the Task Group is covered in item 7b.

1.3 As a consequence of the discussion in March and to help provide the context of reducing bed based provision, HOSC requested a joint presentation on the strategy for older people's mental health services. This joint presentation was due to be given by Andrew Dean in partnership with Kate Dawson, Head of Strategic Commissioning (Mental Health Social Care and Supporting People), Adult Social Care, East Sussex County Council, and Martin Packwood, Commissioning Manager, East Sussex PCTs. However, Mr Packwood is unable to attend due to another engagement.

1.4 Copies of the presentation will be available at the HOSC meeting.

1.5 HOSC may wish to consider such issues as:

- the extent of joint working between Health and Social Care;
- future need for the services in a context of an ageing population and how this is being planned for;
- the future development of community based services, particularly the provision of 24 hour, 7 day a week support;
- how support for carers is built into the strategy.

Andrew Ogden
Director of Law and Personnel

Contact Officer: Claire Lee, Scrutiny Lead Officer
Tel No: 01273 481327