

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **16th September 2008**

By: **Chairman of the Review Board on Stroke Care**

Title of report: **Scrutiny Review of Stroke Care**

Purpose of report: **To summarise progress on the HOSC scrutiny review of stroke care and seek HOSC's endorsement of the objectives and scope of the review.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HOSC is recommended to:**

- 1. Endorse the objectives and scope of the review as outlined in section 3.**
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### **1. Background**

1.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 HOSC agreed its work programme for the coming year. This included agreement to undertake a scrutiny review of stroke care. Councillors Davies, Healy, Martin and Rogers were nominated to form the Review Board.

### **2. Review progress**

2.1 The Review Board held its inaugural meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008. Cllr Davies was nominated as Chairman of the Board. The meeting focussed on gathering background information about stroke care in East Sussex and on agreeing the scope and objectives of the review. The Board received a presentation from the Director of Commissioning from East Sussex Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) which informed the discussion.

2.2 The Board has agreed the objectives and scope of the review as listed below in section 3, and seeks HOSC's endorsement. The Board noted that a significant amount of work is underway in East Sussex in relation to stroke care, particularly in relation to the operation of acute stroke services within East Sussex hospitals. The Board has therefore decided to focus on areas where work is less advanced and on bringing a patient and carer perspective to the work. The review is running alongside the development of the PCTs' stroke strategy and its findings will provide helpful input to that strategy, particularly in terms of patient, public and carer views.

2.3 Review Board members decided to invite two co-optees to join the Board. Firstly, a member of the County Council's Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, reflecting the importance of integrated health and social care for stroke patients. Secondly, a PCT Non-Executive Director, reflecting the Board's desire to take a partnership approach to the Review and the potential benefits of increased Non-Executive Director awareness both of stroke care issues and HOSC's work. Cllr Martyn Forster and Cllr John Barnes, Chairman, East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT have now joined the Board as the co-optees from these respective bodies.

2.4 The Board held a further meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 which focussed on agreeing ways to gather public, patient and carer views as part of the review, obtaining data about stroke prevalence in East Sussex, and an overview of Adult Social Care's role in care for stroke survivors. This began the main evidence gathering phase of the review. The Board has plans to interview a wide range of witnesses, review documentary evidence and make visits to acute and rehabilitation stroke units during the remainder of this phase. A report detailing findings and recommendations will then be produced and be presented to HOSC in March 2009.

### 3. Objectives and scope of the review

#### 3.1 The **objectives** of the review are to:

“Assess and make recommendations on the stroke care provided to East Sussex residents, with particular focus on awareness and prevention, configuration of acute services and the integrated provision of rehabilitation and long-term support.”

#### 3.2 To do this the review will:

- i. Research public and professional awareness of stroke prevention and care and the information currently available
- ii. Seek the views of patients, carers and professionals in relation to current stroke services and their views on how services can be improved
- iii. Examine how stroke services in East Sussex compare to regional and national best practice
- iv. Research stroke prevalence and outcomes data for East Sussex, with particular reference to identifying areas of health inequality.

#### 3.3 The **scope** of the review comprises:

- i. Public and professional awareness of stroke prevention, symptoms and treatment, the information available to these groups and how awareness can be improved.
- ii. Provision of rehabilitation and long-term support for stroke survivors, particularly joint working between the NHS, social care and the voluntary sector in this area.
- iii. The provision of acute stroke care services for East Sussex residents.

#### 3.4 Areas **excluded** from the review are as follows:

a) In terms of acute care, the review will focus on the provision of acute care at a relatively high level rather than on the day to day provision of care within acute stroke units or hospitals generally.

b) The review will focus primarily on care for people who have experienced a ‘full’ stroke as opposed to a transient ischaemic attack (TIA or ‘mini stroke’). This is because significant work has already been undertaken on improving care for TIA patients and a new clinic model is being introduced imminently at East Sussex Hospitals Trust.

c) Although there is likely to be cross-over in some aspects of the review with other long-term conditions, this review will focus only on care for stroke patients. Where the review's findings or recommendations may be applicable to the care provided for other patients this will be noted in the report.

d) The review will not consider detailed clinical guidelines for the care of stroke patients as this is beyond the expertise of the Review Board.

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