

## Item 11(c)

### Report from East Sussex Seniors Association (ESSA) meeting in response to – Shaping Our Future

On 14<sup>th</sup> August a small sub-group of the Health and Social Care Group met up to look at the proposals to re-organise stroke, general surgery and orthopaedic services in East Sussex.

The meeting was chaired by Ivy Elsey.

- Page 60/61 – the group felt that these were misleading and unnecessary. Those who would be directed to their nearest hospital i.e. Brighton, Pembury although resident in East Sussex would find it difficult to make sense of this.
- The wider use of air-ambulance services also makes it irrelevant.
- The document seemed to be a ‘contest’ between services at the Eastbourne and Hastings hospitals in which the group had little connection.
- As patients already attend hospitals outside ESCC for specialist treatment it was hoped that more consideration would be given to those wishing to visit family and friends in hospital.
- There was no mention of ‘patient choice’. Is this still on the agenda?
- There was no disagreement over ‘changes’ per se providing they were fully explained and made sense. Constantly seeing change as a cost-cutting exercise is depressing to older people who already feel they are seen as a ‘burden’ on society.
- We agree that there should be a specialist stroke unit in ES. Although success will depend on the immediate care and instant recognition of the type of stroke taking place. The First Responders therefore become vitally important here. Instances were reported where stroke victims in care homes had not been identified until passed the vital first hour of onset.

- We assumed that patients would not be subjected to ‘no treatment out of hours or at weekends’!
- We assumed that scans etc to make a proper diagnosis would be available in all hospitals and that patients would not be ferried to specialist units therefore wasting time.
- General surgery – we preferred Option 2 with no further comment.
- We felt we could not make any further comments as the line of questioning appeared to be a choice between which of the two hospitals would have which services.
- As a final comment we were concerned that decisions were being made about the other hospitals we attend without consultation with us the patients.

Written up by Kate Davies (chair of ESSA). Ivy Elsey will be sending ESSA’s response to the address at the back of the document.