

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)
held at County Hall, Lewes on 19 June 2014

PRESENT:

East Sussex County Council Members

Councillors Michael Ensor (Chair), Frank Carstairs, Kim Forward, Ruth O'Keeffe (Vice-Chair), Peter Pragnell, Alan Shuttleworth, and Bob Standley

District and Borough Council Members

Councillors John Ungar (Eastbourne Borough Council), Sue Beaney (Hastings Borough Council), Bridget George (Rother District Council), and Mrs Diane Phillips (Wealden District Council)

Voluntary Sector Representatives

Julie Eason (SpeakUp), Jennifer Twist (SpeakUp)

ALSO PRESENT:

High Weald Lewes Havens CCG

Wendy Carberry, Chief Officer

Ashley Scarff, Head of Commissioning and Strategy

Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG / Hastings and Rother CCG

Jessica Britton, Associate Director of Strategy and Governance

Amanda Philpott, Chief Officer

Catherine Ashton, Associate Director of Quality and Whole Systems

Dr Martin Writer, Chair Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Dr Amanda Harrison, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Assurance

SCRUTINY OFFICER:

Paul Dean, Member Services Manager

1. MINUTES

1.1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 were agreed as correct records.

2. APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angharad Davies (Rother District Council) and Jackie Harrison-Hicks (Lewes District Council).

2.2. Councillor Bridget George had been appointed as a substitute for Councillor Angharad Davies (Rother District Council) for this meeting.

2.3. There have been the following changes in the Committee's membership since the last meeting:

- Councillor Kim Forward has replaced Councillor Michael Wincott (East Sussex County Council)
- Councillor Sue Beaney has replaced Councillor Dawn Poole (Hastings Borough Council)
- Councillor Jackie Harrison-Hicks has replaced Councillor Elayne Merry (Lewes District Council).

2.4. The Chair thanked the four new Committee Members (Councillors Beaney, Harrison-Hicks, Forward and George) for undertaking the considerable task of getting up to speed with all of the work that HOSC has done over the past few months.

2.5. The Chair thanked the outgoing Committee Members (Councillors Merry, Poole and Wincott) for their valuable involvement over the past few months.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

3.1. There were none.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Copies of the reports dealt with in the minutes below are included in the minute book.

5. BETTER BEGINNINGS CONSULTATION

5.1. The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive summarising the results of the independent analyses of Better Beginnings, the clinical commissioning groups' (CCGs) public consultation in East Sussex on the proposed reconfiguration of Maternity, Inpatient Paediatric and Emergency Gynaecology.

5.2. The following motion moved by Councillor Shuttleworth and seconded by Councillor Ungar was LOST:

HOSC believes that the NHS consultation process in respect of Better Beginnings (the future of maternity and paediatric services in East Sussex) has demonstrated a shortfall in content with the omission of a seventh option of consultant-led maternity at Eastbourne District General Hospital and at the Conquest Hospital in Hastings, and the omission of an inpatient paediatric unit at both hospitals. As a result of the omission of the two-site consultant-led maternity option, there has not been full analysis of this option, which was confirmed by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in 2008 as the safest option following an intervention by the Secretary of State for Health. Therefore, this shortfall in consultation should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State for Health.

5.3. The following motion moved by Councillor Pragnell and seconded by Councillor Standley was CARRIED:

HOSC is satisfied with the content of the NHS consultation process in respect of Better Beginnings, the future of maternity and paediatric services in East Sussex, and is satisfied that sufficient time was allowed.

5.4. RESOLVED – 1) to agree HOSC is satisfied with the content of the NHS consultation process in respect of Better Beginnings, the future of maternity and paediatric services in East Sussex, and is satisfied that sufficient time was allowed.

2) to recommend that CCGs use the term 'sexuality' rather than 'sexual preference' in future consultations.

6. BETTER BEGINNINGS – MATERNITY AND PAEDIATRIC SERVICES IN EAST SUSSEX

6.1. The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive to agree and present its findings and recommendations on maternity and inpatient paediatric services and emergency gynaecology to the CCGs.

6.2. In response to questions from HOSC, the CCGs made the following points:

- The CCGs are reviewing the optimal opening times of the Short Stay Paediatric Assessment Units (SSPAU) based on patient flows to the units since the temporary reconfiguration. This ongoing review does not impact on the outcome of the Better Beginnings consultation and is part of a larger piece of work looking at transforming and building capacity in paediatric services in primary care settings and in the community.
- The latest report from the Strategic Executive Information System (STEIS) shows that there were 15 serious incidents during the financial year 2012/13 (prior to the May 2013 temporary reconfiguration) and five during 2013/14. The CCGs said that this reduction in serious incidents was evidence that the temporary single site reconfiguration had successfully reduced the system-wide issues inherent in the two site configuration, such as the difficulty in providing sufficient consultant presence at both sites and the difficulty in recruiting enough trainee doctors.
- The Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Deanery comprises a group of senior clinicians who set the training curriculum and oversee the training of the junior doctors in accordance with Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) guidelines. The KSS Deanery visited the obstetrics unit at the Conquest Hospital after the temporary reconfiguration and reported that there had been no locum cover since the reconfiguration, there were better training opportunities available in obstetrics and anaesthetics, and there was a marked improvement in trainees' exposure to practical obstetrics support. The CCGs explained that trainee doctors are attracted to hospital trusts where they will receive the best training, so these are all real, positive steps by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) to increase the recruitment rate of trainee doctors.
- There is a structured training programme in the south coast region that provides trainee doctors with the opportunity to move between obstetric units to gain better experience. However, due to the low birth rate in Eastbourne and Hastings, it is difficult to attract trainees who are already working at other Trusts in the south coast to undertake part of their training in East Sussex.

- The CCGs have seen no evidence that the introduction of the European Working Time Directive, and subsequent introduction of maximum working hours, has attracted more people to the medical profession. The main aim of a junior doctor in a training grade is to care for patients and get the necessary experience to progress as soon as possible, which has been made more difficult by the European Working Time Directive as it has limited the number of hours that they can work.
- Obstetrics units are co-located with a Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). SCBUs are classified between Level 1 and Level 3 depending on the degree of high dependency and intensive care that they provide. The temporarily reconfigured obstetrics unit at the Conquest Hospital has a Level 1 SCBU. A Level 3 SCBU is classified as a 'tertiary care unit' and would only be located at a regional tertiary centre such as the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton (or London would be the next nearest). The decision as to whether it would be appropriate for the SCBU in East Sussex to be designated as Level 1 or Level 2 will be the subject of discussions between the CCGs and the strategic clinical networks across Sussex.
- The governing bodies of the three CCGs will meet in public on Wednesday 25 June 2014 to decide on the preferred delivery option for maternity and paediatric services. The three CCGs are constitutionally separate and will each make their own decision at the meeting. The CCGs will return to HOSC reporting their decisions and responding to HOSC's report and recommendations.

6.3. The following amendment moved by Councillor George and seconded by Councillor Standley was CARRIED:

Add a recommendation 7(a) to the draft HOSC report that reads:

A strategy should be put in place to 'vision' a centre of excellence that will successfully attract training grade clinicians to obstetric and paediatric services in East Sussex.

6.4. The following amendment moved by Councillor Forward and seconded by Councillor Standley was CARRIED:

Amend recommendation 1(c) of the draft HOSC report to read:

Changes to the configuration of maternity services should include upgrading and modernising facilities, with due consideration given to the number of beds required across all type and location of unit. HOSC wishes to see excellent, modern obstetric and gynaecological services that put the needs of women and babies at the heart of these services in East Sussex.

6.5. RESOLVED – 1) to adopt the report, as amended in 1(c) and 7(a), as a formal account of HOSC's findings and recommendations on maternity and paediatric services;

2) to forward the report to the CCGs; and

3) to note that three HOSC members expressed a minority view that the option of consultant-led obstetric units, together with co-located in-patient paediatric units, located at both the Conquest Hospital in Hastings and Eastbourne District General Hospital should be properly consulted upon.

7. **HOSC WORK PROGRAMME**

- 7.1. HOSC deferred consideration of the work programme to the next meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.20pm.