



*This newsletter is produced by East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and provides an update on the progress made with Health Scrutiny in East Sussex.*

## **Independent advice on the Future**



The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) weighing up the Primary Care Trusts' (PCTs') proposed new configuration of childbirth care in Eastbourne and Hastings has been interviewing a wide range of stakeholders as part of its review on behalf of the Secretary of State. HOSC members had two meetings with members of the IRP's sub-group undertaking the review. The IRP intend to submit their report to the Secretary of State by 31st July 2008 and the minister is expected to announce his decision by October 2008.

Although implementation of the PCTs' plans is on hold pending the Secretary of State's decision, HOSC is closely monitoring a number of areas. Michael Wilson, Programme Director, Fit for the Future, East Sussex PCTs emphasised to the committee that the current childbirth arrangements are safe and effective but East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust (ESHT)

is very aware of the issues facing the services and is monitoring the situation closely and reporting to the PCTs.

The PCTs are providing funds totalling £100,000 per month over the NHS tariff to maintain services in their present configuration. This includes the recruitment of 6 additional midwives and extra support for the costs of the midwife-led unit in Crowborough.

The PCTs and ESHT are developing a set of measures which allow monitoring of the quality of maternity services. In addition, the PCTs are undertaking an assessment of what is needed to fully implement the government's 'Maternity Matters' agenda.

## **Stroke care review**

Stroke care is under the HOSC spotlight following agreement on the committee's future work programme. The review will complement the development of local stroke plans by the East Sussex PCTs. Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'HOSC believes that, despite recent advances in stroke care, there are many areas that need to be improved and this review aims to make recommendations on how this could be achieved in East Sussex.'

Members of the Review Board are:  
Cllrs Angharad Davies, Beryl Healy,  
Eve Martin and David Rogers.

## Admirable services for young carers



*Photograph courtesy of Care for the Carers*

Demonstrable progress in improving services for young carers has been praised by HOSC. Work by the Young Carers Strategy Group, established following a Children's Services' review in 2006, and the completion of joint protocols between Adult Services and Children's Services is beginning to reap benefits. The number of young people accessing services from the Young Carers Service has increased by 50% in the last 12 months and schools have increased awareness of the needs of young carers. Young Carers Clubs, organised by Care for the Carers, have proved particularly successful and popular with young carers. They help to reduce social exclusion, help reduce isolation and provide an opportunity to meet other young carers.

Richard Baldwin, Operations Manager, Integrated Services (West), Children's Services and Mark Braddock, Young Carers Services Manager, Care for the Carers updated HOSC on progress.

Work is ongoing to ensure a universal and consistent approach across the county.

## Health centres ahoy

New GP-led health centres are planned for Eastbourne and Hastings. East Sussex PCTs aim to develop Hastings' health centre as part of the Station Plaza scheme. The location of the health centre in Eastbourne has still to be decided but it is to be sited within one of the most

deprived wards in the town – Devonshire. The centres will cater for both registered and unregistered patients, offering bookable and 'walk-in' appointments. They will operate extended hours of 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week.

John Vesely, Director of Primary Care, East Sussex PCTs outlined the plans to HOSC. He said, 'The centres will provide patients with greater access to NHS primary care services. Locations have been chosen specifically to cater for areas with a transient population and where there is likely to be most demand for extended hours services.'

Consultation with key stakeholders is underway and tenders to provide the services are being sought. It is expected that, while the contracts for the new services will be let by December 2008, the centres will not be operational in Eastbourne until April 2009 and in Hastings until December 2009.

## Older people's mental health services

Promoting health and wellbeing by providing more care, closer to home is one of the key themes for older people's mental health services. This is in tandem with reducing the number of older people who go into hospital, offering more intensive home care and providing more sheltered accommodation and extra care housing schemes.

Andrew Dean, Associate Director, Older People's and Forensic Services, Sussex Partnership NHS Trust, 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 outlined the joint strategy to HOSC.

With depression present in approximately 15% of all older people and dementia affecting 5% of all people over 65 years (rising to 20% for all people over 80 years) the pressure on resources is growing. In 2003/4 the direct costs of Alzheimer's disease exceeded the combined costs of stroke, cancer and heart disease.

The government is currently consulting on a national dementia strategy. This strategy will raise the profile of dementia care and should set targets for local PCTs which will provide a good foundation for making the case for additional funding. Information on the consultation is available at [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

### **Community shift supported**

Plans by the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust to close in-patient acute assessment beds for older people with organic mental health needs at the Beechwood Unit in Uckfield have been endorsed by HOSC, subject to consultation. This is part of the plans for the Trust to reduce beds, in the county, from 74 to 60 and reduce acute mental health units to two, enabling a shift of investment towards community based support and assessment.

### **New model of care in West Sussex**



West Sussex PCT has chosen Worthing Hospital to develop as the Major General Hospital for West Sussex with full Accident & Emergency (including emergency surgery), in patient paediatrics and consultant-led maternity services. St Richard's Hospital in Chichester will operate as a Local General Hospital plus (LGH+) with the majority of A&E services, but not emergency surgery or inpatient paediatrics and with consultant-led maternity replaced by a midwife-led unit. The Princess Royal Hospital will also be an LGH+, retaining A&E as it currently is, but without a consultant-led maternity unit. There will also be a further stand-alone midwife-led unit in the north of West

Sussex, but further consultation will be undertaken before a decision is made on the location of this unit. Locations being considered include Crawley and Haywards Heath.

The Joint HOSC is reviewing the PCT's decisions on June 25<sup>th</sup> and on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008, West Sussex PCT will confirm or amend decisions made, taking into account the views of the Joint HOSC. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 the Joint HOSC will meet to determine its final view on the proposals, including whether a referral to the Secretary of State is necessary.

Information about the PCTs' consultation is available on the NHS website [www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk](http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk).

### **Emerging LINK**

East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) was established in April and organisational support is provided by East Sussex Disability Association (ESDA). The LINK's operation will be based on a core group and a number of issue focussed and task orientated sub-groups, with various ways for LINK participants to get involved.

The LINK has nominated an 'interim core group' to work with ESDA to develop the governance arrangements, policies and procedures necessary for the LINK to get up and running. Janet Colvert (below) has been elected as Chair of this group. Janet has also been nominated to be the LINK representative on HOSC.



Cllr Sylvia Tidy said, 'HOSC looks forward to developing its relationship with the LINK and we have agreed a simple protocol to show how HOSC will handle issues referred by the LINK. We are

delighted to have Janet join the committee. She has been a leading light in the development of the LINK in East Sussex and brings a wealth of experience to HOSC.'

For further information on LINK go to: [www.thecountylink.net](http://www.thecountylink.net)

## Wood in post

Mike Wood has been appointed Chief Executive, East Sussex PCTs to succeed Nick Yeo. Mike takes up his post in the autumn. He is currently Chief Executive of the Hammersmith and Fulham PCT.

## Readers' letters

### **Excellent**

*An excellent newsletter (April 2008 edition no. 19), with a lot of in-depth information – keep it up! – Cllr Martin Prestage, Jarvis Brook Ward, Wealden District Council*

### **Choose and Book clarification**

*(April 2008 edition no. 19)*

*Just to clarify, the Choose and Book system was poorly used at first, not because of any reluctance or “loss of faith” on the part of GPs but because administrative staff in hospitals had not put their clinics on the system. Also, the community hospitals and clinics often preferred by patients were not initially featured on the Choose and Book menus, so many referrals had to be done manually in order to offer the patient’s preferred choice of provider. The PCT’s “performance” on Choose and Book relates merely to its adherence to a Government priority: it would be inaccurate for the HOSC to report low uptake of Choose and Book as a failing of clinical staff to offer the best service to their patients. I hope you may find the opportunity to clarify that for your target audience.*

Dr Paul N Moore  
General Practitioner  
Quayside Medical Practice, Newhaven

## Next HOSC meeting

The next HOSC meeting is **10am Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008** at County Hall, Lewes.

Webcast recordings and further details of meetings are available on the HOSC website: [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)

### HOSC 2007/2008

East Sussex County Council:

**Cllr Sylvia Tidy** Chairman  
**Cllr David Rogers OBE** Vice Chairman  
**Cllr Beryl Healy**  
**Cllr Philip Howson**  
**Cllr Ruth O’Keeffe**  
**Cllr Barry Taylor**  
**Cllr John Wilson**

Eastbourne Borough Council

**Cllr Alex Hough**

Hastings Borough Council

**Cllr Eve Martin**

Lewes District Council

**Cllr Carolyn Lambert**

Rother District Council

**Cllr Angharad Davies**

Wealden District Council

**Cllr Diane Phillips**

Voluntary services’ representatives:

**Mr Ralph Chapman**

Chairman, Age Concern East Sussex

**Ms Debby Matthews**

Director, Southdowns CVS

East Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) representative:

**Ms Janet Colvert**, Chair LINK Interim Core Group

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East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is managed by East Sussex County Council and works in partnership with Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council