

# HOSC/55/10

**Committee** Health Overview and Scrutiny

**Date** 3 December 2010

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## **Non Substantive Service Variations**

**Report by:** Graham Redgwell, Secretary

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The Secretary often receives communications from health bodies which do not constitute a substantive variation (as defined in health scrutiny legislation) but which will, nevertheless be of interest to HOSC members and Essex residents. These are reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Non Substantive Variations since the last meeting are as follows:

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(a) **NHS Mid Essex**

The Trust proposes to transfer the maternity service currently provided at the William Julian Cartauld site in Braintree to the St Michaels Hospital site. The service will retain the same staff in the same town but will be able to provide accommodation and facilities of a higher level.

Contact: Wendy Smith

(b) **NHS North Essex Mental Health Partnership**

A small ward for intensive care psychiatric use (PQ Ward) on the severalls site had been used to support the bigger units at Clacton and the Lakes. In September 2009 the ward became empty but a decision on its future was deferred to see whether demand increased. This did not occur and staff were redeployed to other wards. After a year it was clear that there was no long-term demand and the ward has now been formally decommissioned. There is adequate provision on other sites to cover this closure.

Contact: Nicola Coulston

(c) NHS West Essex

To improve urgent care services in West Essex, the PCT is moving the existing Walk-in Centre at Wych Elm to be part of an integrated service at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The two buildings are about 200 yards apart. The change is expected to occur in late November.

The new arrangements will allow a single point of access rather than the split service which is offered at present. The proposals have been developed by, and are supported by, local clinicians.

Contact: Catherine O'Connell