

HOSC/36/11

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 2 November 2011

UPDATE ITEM

Report by Graham Redgwell, Secretary to the Committee

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The Committee is advised of the following issues arising since the last meeting:-

Kidney transplants

The National Kidney Federation has drawn attention to the fact that the NHS is unlikely to achieve the 50% increase in organ donations set as a target four years ago. The Federation is pursuing the matter nationally but is inviting local HOSCs to take up the matter with the Chief Executives of local health trusts. **Does the HOSC wish this to happen?** If so, the matter might also be usefully taken up with the regional Specialist Commissioning Group.

North East London Foundation Trust

The Chairman has accepted an invitation to visit the Trust on 7 November.

NHS West Essex

(1) The PCT, in conjunction with SEPT (as the provider service in the area), has agreed a model for Early Supported Discharge for stroke patients in West Essex. Some of the beds used by recovering stroke patients on Beech Ward at St Margarets Hospital will be taken out of use and the money saved – together with some additional funding – is being reallocated to provide an improved service in the community, using individual rehabilitation plans for each person. This is in line with national policy and accelerated stroke targets.

The Secretary was consulted on the proposed change and advised that, in his view, **it should not be regarded as a substantial variation** under the terms of health scrutiny legislation, in that the service will continue to be provided for anyone requiring it, although some will now receive it in a different setting than previously. In response to specific issues raised by the Secretary, the PCT has confirmed that:

- stakeholders (particularly the Stroke Association) are involved in the process;
- patients will receive a hospital or community based service appropriate to their needs; and
- the changes are in line with recognised national good practice and a long standing principle of supporting people in the community whenever possible.

The Committee is invited to endorse the Secretary's response.

(2) The PCT and SEPT are proposing changes to the staffing structure for the Foot Health Service in West Essex. A major driver behind the changes is the need to make efficiency savings and cut management and administrative costs.

A formal consultation is now taking place on a proposal to make savings of £30,000, by reviewing the current staffing levels to cut 2.4 Band 7 posts. The changes will affect the number of sessions held at GP diabetic health check clinics. There will be no changes to the referral process or criteria for individuals to receive the service.

The consultation is aimed primarily at the staff affected but the HOSC may comment if it wishes. The closing date for comments is 5 December.

North Essex Primary Care Trust cluster

Members have been advised of the proposed staffing structure for the PCT cluster in North Essex. No comments were put forward to be passed back to the cluster.

South Essex QIPP plans

Members were provided with copies of the QIPP plans for both NHS South East Essex and NHS South West Essex following their publication on 22 September 2011.

Members had discussed many of the proposals within the plans at previous meetings of either this Committee or the South East Essex Strategic Plan task and finish group, and no further comments were required.
