

HOSC/09/11

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

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General update

The following matters have been dealt with by the Secretary recently and are reported for information.

Quality Accounts 2010/11

Health bodies are now starting to prepare their quality Accounts. These are statutory documents and must include any comments that either HOSCs or LINKs's make. The Secretary will ensure that responses are made in any cases where the HOSC has had an involvement with that health body in the last 12 months.

Basildon and Thurrock Hospitals University Foundation Trust

The Two hour afternoon X-ray session at the St. Andrews Centre in Billericay is being withdrawn. On average, four patients are seen daily and it is not cost effective. The PCT and local GPs support this stance. The morning session (which see an average of 18 patients per day) will continue and provision is also available throughout the day at Basildon and Orsett Hospitals and at the Brentwood Community Hospital.

This is seen as a non substantive variation (Local contact: Mark Macgrath)

Mid-Essex PCT

The management of Braintree Community Hospital will be changing in the next 12 months from Braintree Clinical Services Limited to a new manager (yet to be named).

The Committee has not involved itself in contractual issues in the past.

(Local contact: Colette Ovens)

North East Essex PCT

The contract for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening is moving to a new contractor on 1 April 2011. This is a joint contract with some other PCTs in the region. National standards of service and quality, and nationally agreed models of delivery, will be adhered to.

Service provision will improve. Currently based at 12 centres, services will now be available at 40 sites based in GP practices across the Colchester and Tendring districts, at times of a patients choosing. Diabetes UK and local stakeholders have been involved in the planning of these arrangements and will continue to take place in service monitoring.

The action taken is in compliance with current national standards.

(Local contact: Karen Fulcher)

Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

The Trust has resumed its application for Foundation Trust status. Public meetings are being held locally on 24 February, 10 March and 15 March.

As any such Trust may apply for Foundation status, the HOSCs previous stance has been that it would be not comment but that individual Members may wish to do so in a personal capacity.

(Local contact: Victoria Thatcher)

South West Essex PCT

The PCT is drawing up proposals for community beds and day hospitals in the area. This will have implications on services across the south of the county and will come before this committee as a substantive variation in due course.

In the meantime, an under used day facility at the Mayflower Hospital will be relocated to Brentwood Community Hospital. This unit caters for about 11 procedures only per day (which often include multiple procedures for a single patient). Transport to the new venue will be provided for any patients requiring it.

Although a non substantive variation in itself, Members will wish to note that this is the second issue involving a facility in Billericay to arise in a short space of time.

(Local contact: Tonia Parsons)

West Essex PCT

Local Members have been advised of stakeholder events being held in the area on 24 February, 28 February, 8 March and 10 March 2011.

(Local contact: David Jackman)