

North East Review NEWS

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Meeting the healthcare needs of local people

Issue 6: December 2008

Get in touch!

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When will the North East Review Report be published?

Although recent meetings have been reviewing Version 2 of the NER Report, the team has been working hard to incorporate the many comments from stakeholders and the NER Chapter on Secondary Care services before Christmas. The draft report will also be read by the Patients'

In the meantime it's been agreed to send, to the Stakeholder Forum, the latest version of the NER Report's recommendations and the latest version of the draft Chapter on Secondary Care services before Christmas.

The draft report will also be read by the Patients'



Reading Panel for ease of understanding and by a professional editor.

What is the process for scrutiny of the work of the NER Panel?

The HOSC Task Force continues to take a close interest in the work of the NER Panel. Their Interim Report on the NER process was submitted to West Sussex HOSC on 1st December and overall was supportive of the extensive consultation work this programme has undertaken.

They identified some areas they felt could be improved, in particular:-

- Involving as wide a group of community organisations as possible – they noted that the NER hadn't involved disabled groups until quite late
- Giving both the HOSC and other partners more advance warning of the Review and of the dates and timetable
- Improving the communication about public information events especially in the early weeks of the Review programme.

They made an interesting recommendation for the future: that all Local Authorities should keep databases of local organisations so that if the PCT, or any other body, wanted to carry out consultation, there would be a comprehensive list of possible consultees.



Working out whether hospitals serving the population of the NE of the county have enough capacity has been debated on a number of occasions by the Panel. There had already been a seminar on 4th September and another on 28th October as well as a Panel hearing in public on 24th September. The Panel agreed that in looking at the question whether a new general hospital was needed in the NE it had to ask a number of questions.



These were:-

1. Is there enough capacity in the current hospitals/community to provide acute care to the people of the area?
2. Are the hospital Trusts serving this population able to provide a good quality of care?
3. How accessible are the services, and if they aren't, what can be done about it?

The Panel had already agreed a number of key indicators to judge quality of care and capacity but they wanted further advice from an independent external source on bed numbers.

The presentation to the Panel on 4th December explained that using acute hospital bed numbers was not a very useful tool as acute services also rely on local community hospitals, community teams and social care to work with them as one network. Bed numbers in isolation enabled questions to be raised, but unless there were other indicators, they could not, in isolation, provide the answer.

The evidence provided by the external consultant did confirm the Panel's earlier view that the acute hospital system in the NE seems to be working at full capacity and the PCT needed to look at how this could be eased. Also that in the longer term – 10 to 20 years – the model did suggest that more hospital beds would be needed but not enough to warrant a new hospital in the area.

The Panel's recommendations will address these issues in detail.

Media comment by Francis Maude MP

There have been some media comments recently by Francis Maude MP about the NE Review. There is one factual inaccuracy which the PCT has corrected through a response to local papers. It was asserted that the

PCT had ruled out any consideration of a new hospital in the NE of the county. Whilst this was correct in the very early stages, once the Panel was set up and chaired by Sir Graeme, the PCT agreed that all options should be

explored including the option for a new hospital in the NE.

The Panel has looked at this question in detail and their report will reflect this.

North East Review Panel Members

Sir Graeme Catto
(Chair)

Sara Weech
(Director of Operations -
Health, West Sussex
County Council)

Dr Ann Corkery
(Public Health Consultant)

Sue Cart
(Representative of the
Director of Adult and
Children's Services, West
Sussex County Council)

Taff Davies
(Lay representative)

Dr Tim Fooks
(GP representative of the
Professional Executive
Committee)

Chris McKrill
(Nurse representative of
the Professional Executive
Committee)

**Dr Amit Bhargava/Dr
Minesh Patel**
(GP Practice Based
Commissioning
representatives)

Neil Ferrelly
(PCT Finance Director)

Next steps and timetable

The NER HOSC Task Force met on 11th December and have been looking in more detail at the recommendations.

There will be no further meetings of the NER Panel as they have heard or received evidence on most aspects of health services in the NE. However, the Panel members are busy via email amending and improving the text of the

report, and in particular getting the recommendations finalised.

There will be a Stakeholder Forum meeting on 6th January at 2.30pm (venue to be advised) to consider their response to the report.

The report is due to go to the PCT Board on 29th January; it will then go to the West Sussex HOSC meeting on 24th February



which will be held in Crawley Town Hall at 10am.

The PCT Board will review comments from the HOSC at its Board meeting on 26th February.

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Review of Children's Services

The review of Children's services in the area served by SaSH has been progressing really well, with a good Project Group led by Dr Amit Bhargava, involving clinicians from primary care, community services and SaSH.

Their report is due to be finalised by the Group and issued in parallel with the NER report. Their key recommendations on children's services are being included in the NER report as well.

What's gone well? What could be improved?

At the December meeting of the Stakeholder Forum, members were asked to tell the PCT's Public Involvement Team what had gone well and what could be done better. Some of the positive comments were:-

- Public Information Meetings – consistent, easily understood, clear messages. Incremental improvement at each meeting from learning from each event. Range of accessible venues.
- Website – easily accessible and kept up to date well
- Small issues raised at meetings were taken up
- NE Review team and support staff
- Newsletters



They also suggested that some things could have been better:-

- Publicity for Public Information events
- Carers not well represented
- Lack of clarity about geographic area under review at the beginning affected involvement
- Limited time for discussion about hospitals at Public Information events
- Difficult to get message across in Crawley
- More engagement needed with range of Long Term Condition groups

And some general points for future consultations:-

- If PCT wants CVS organisations to be more active around engagement; in their capacity as umbrella organisations, may need to offer financial support
- Speed of review has made cascade of communication with some voluntary organisations difficult
- Need to allow sufficient time to consider findings and input into draft report.