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**NHS**

West Sussex

# North East Review newsletter

OCTOBER 2009

## West Sussex Primary Care Trust to be known as NHS West Sussex

From 1 October 2009 West Sussex Primary Care Trust will be known as NHS West Sussex. The PCT no longer directly manages community services but commissions (plans, buys and checks) health care that is high quality, to meet the needs of the people who live and work in our county. We will also commission services to help people live healthily and stay well. To reflect this change the PCT will be known as **NHS West Sussex**. This

name change is also happening in other PCTs across the country and over 100 have now dropped the term 'primary care trust' from their title.



## Introduction

Health services in the north east area of West Sussex are changing. The North East Review was set up by West Sussex Primary Care Trust in May 2008 to assess local health services. The independent North East Review Panel, chaired by Sir Graeme Catto, presented 45 recommendations to the PCT Board in January 2009 relating to all areas of NHS work, from children's services to mental health provision. Work is now underway to turn the Panel's thinking into better services for patients. This newsletter will provide updates on the developments which matter to you.

## Implementation updates

### Children's services

Recommendation 20 from the North East Review Panel was for the PCT to employ extra paediatric nursing staff at the Crawley Urgent Treatment Centre, and recruitment is underway. The intention is to employ three specialist staff, providing cover 12



hours a day. Expressions of interest have already been received, although qualified people are hard to find and so the recruitment process may take some time.

### Stroke services

This year's budget includes £863,000 for community neuro-rehabilitation stroke services in the north east of the county. This relates to Recommendation 26 of the North East Review Panel, and patients, carers, and clinicians have already had their say about establishing a top quality community neurological rehabilitation service, including stroke specialisms. A pilot service

will run for 12 months from February 2010, and then the PCT will seek a partner to provide the service in the long term. An 'Oversight' group has been set up, chaired by Mid-Sussex GP Dr Minesh Patel.

### Mental Health

Recommendation 11 from the Panel called for earlier diagnosis and treatment for people with dementia, and the north east is the first area to benefit from a £2.8m county-wide investment, over three years, dedicated to achieving this aim. The money will fund Memory Assessment Services, giving people early access to specialist assessment and treatment.

A three-year, £8.5m initiative – the recruitment of more than 100 community-based therapists offering support to people suffering mild to moderate anxiety and depression – is also being started first in the north east. It is already underway in Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex.

### Radiotherapy

Recommendation 35 from the Panel urged the PCT to provide access to at least one radiotherapy machine locally. Improved access was already a top priority for the PCT, and patients, clinicians and the wider public are involved in helping the PCT assess the best way forward. A range of options will be drawn up and it is expected that a blueprint for the future of radiotherapy services will be ready by March 2010. There are no 'quick fixes', but the PCT is committed to making long-term improvements.

### North East Partnership for Health Board

The North East Partnership for Health Board has been set up, operating as a high-level forum to oversee progress, in line with Recommendation 34 from the Panel. It brings together senior representatives from local authorities, NHS trusts, representatives of the public, the PCT itself and a local GP to ensure ongoing engagement and assurance. The first meeting, which will be chaired by Cllr Christopher Snowling, is on 15th October, from 10am to noon, at the Sheldrake Suite, Martlets Hall, Civic Way, Burgess Hill. Anyone can attend to listen to the proceedings.

### Horsham Minor Injuries Unit

In line with Recommendation 30, the PCT will extend the opening hours at the Horsham Minor Injuries Unit to 10 hours per day, 7 days a week, for a one-year trial period. This major initiative requires more staff, and recruitment is already underway. The exact opening hours will be decided in consultation with

local GPs, and will come into effect when the new staff are in place. We expect the new service to be up and running by the end of the year.

### Bed Capacity

The North East Review Panel concluded that hospital inpatient bed capacity was a major issue in the area, but that there was no justification for building a new hospital. As recommended by the Panel the PCT has commissioned a further report to look at easing pressure on beds by improving productivity at Crawley and Horsham hospitals, moving care from hospitals into the community where desirable, and improving community services. This report made 17 recommendations, including exploring the possibility of extending seven-day working, reducing delayed transfers of care in community hospitals, and reviewing the location of outpatient and diagnostic services.

### Stakeholder Forum

The September meeting of the North East Review Stakeholder Forum, which has more than 100 members, featured presentations about hospital bed capacity and stroke strategy. The forum's next meeting will consider transport and takes place between 2-5pm on November 4th, at the Albion Room, the Y Centre, Horsham. On 18th November there will be a further meeting, between 1.30-4.30pm, at the Meridian Room, East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead, to assess the PCT's response to the Panel's report.

### Personal health budgets

A new trial scheme will start soon in Crawley, giving carers of people in the early stages of dementia a personal health budget. This will allow them greater freedom, within certain constraints, to choose how best to support their own health and wellbeing while looking after loved ones. The scheme will initially support 20 carers, and then more if it is successful. It is a joint

venture with West Sussex County Council, the Alzheimers Society, Carers Support Service North and Mid Sussex, and Crawley Borough Council.

### Access

Inspections have been carried out at both Crawley and Horsham hospitals, to ensure that both sites comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, and the PCT is now working through the recommendations.

The Bluebird Community Partnership transport scheme, backed by the PCT, has been extended. The scheme initially ran two services a day from the south of Mid Sussex to Brighton hospitals, but now the service is available throughout Mid Sussex, and also runs to Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath and to the Horsham and Crawley areas.

## Looking ahead

The next edition of this newsletter will be published in December. It will contain more updates about the progress being made in implementing the recommendations of the North East Review Panel, including the latest on the Stakeholder Forum meetings and the first meeting of the North East Partnership for Health Board.

## Find out more

The full report of the North East Review Panel is available at [www.westsussex.nhs.uk](http://www.westsussex.nhs.uk) in the 'About Us' section. Visit <http://www.westsussex.nhs.uk/about-us/north-east-review/north-east-review-newsletter> to see previous newsletter.