



This issue of the eBulletin from NHS West Sussex includes updates on the leadership arrangements for the Sussex Cluster PCT, a public consultation that has been launched to gather views about proposals to improve hospital and community NHS services, the findings of the first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and a comprehensive review of services for children with complex health needs and disabilities.

## Sussex Cluster PCT leadership arrangements

As part of our transition from the current NHS system to new ways of working, we are planning to move towards a 'cluster' arrangement for PCTs across the South East Coast region by April 2011.

The cluster arrangement means there will be a single PCT chief executive and one PCT executive team for each 'county' in our region – Sussex, Surrey and Kent. The purpose of this is to build in resilience for the next couple of years, while also building commissioning expertise and support for emerging GP commissioning consortia, and accelerating joint arrangements with local authorities.

Amanda Fadero, who is the Chief Executive at NHS Brighton and Hove, has been appointed to lead the cluster in Sussex as the designate Chief Executive and accountable officer for all the constituent county PCTs (ie NHS Brighton and Hove, NHS West Sussex, NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald, and NHS Hastings and Rother) and Denise Harker has been appointed as the cluster Chairman designate.

Ann Sutton has been appointed as the designate Chief Executive for Kent (encompassing NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, NHS West Kent, and NHS Medway) and Colin Tomson has been appointed as Kent cluster Chairman designate.

NHS Surrey operates as a single PCT across the county and therefore already matches the county 'cluster' arrangement. Anne Walker, is confirmed as the chief executive to lead Surrey through the transition period and David Clayton-Smith will continue in his role as Chairman.

## Health and Social Care Bill published

Plans to modernise the National Health Service and put patients at the heart of everything it does were set out in the Health and Social Care Bill, published on 19 January.

The proposed changes will lead to better quality care, more choice and improved outcomes for patients, as well as long-term financial savings for the NHS, which will be available for reinvestment to improve care. Under the new measures there will, for the first time, be a defined legal duty for the NHS and the whole care system to improve continuously the quality of patient care in the areas of effectiveness, safety, and - most importantly - patient experience.

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 is available at: [www.dh.gov.uk/healthandsocialcarebill](http://www.dh.gov.uk/healthandsocialcarebill)

The Bill will proceed through the Houses of Parliament over the coming months.

## Report on pharmaceutical services in West Sussex published

The majority of people in West Sussex can reach a community pharmacy or dispensing doctor practice in 20 minutes or less.

That's just one of the findings of a new report published by NHS West Sussex on 1 February.

The Trust's first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) has looked at what services are available in the county, including the supply of medicines and appliances. It covers local pharmacies, dispensaries at doctor's surgeries, internet and mail order pharmacies and specialist appliance contractors.

Providers of pharmaceutical services have a crucial role to play in improving the health of local people. They are often the first point of contact, especially for those who might otherwise struggle to access health services.

Key findings include:

- Overall, access to pharmaceutical services in West Sussex is good
- Dispensing levels in West Sussex community pharmacies have risen by 4-5% per year since 2006
- The population of West Sussex is growing and getting older - the number of people living in the county is projected to rise by 9% over the next 16 years and population increase is greater in older age groups
- Nationally, 75% of over-75s are on regular prescription medication
- Estimates suggest that up to 50% of people do not take medicines as intended and approximately 10% of hospital admissions may result from older people not coping with or not taking their medicines as intended
- Pharmaceutical service providers play a critical role in promoting the safe and effective use of medicines.

The views of local people have helped to shape the final version of the PNA which will now be used to plan the future of pharmaceutical services in the county with patients in mind.

The PNA can be viewed on the NHS West Sussex website at [www.westsussex.nhs.uk/pna](http://www.westsussex.nhs.uk/pna)

## Next Board meeting will be held on 24 March

NHS West Sussex holds Board meetings in public (usually bi-monthly) at different venues across the county to discuss and make decisions on local health matters. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and time will be set aside for anyone who would like to ask questions.

The agenda and papers for each Board meeting (including the venue) are sent to the main public libraries and local authority HELP POINTS.

Board papers are on the website at: [www.westsussex.nhs.uk/board-meetings](http://www.westsussex.nhs.uk/board-meetings)

The next Board meeting held in public will start at 10am on Thursday 24 March at the Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2HL.

Further meetings are scheduled for 25 May, 28 July (also the Annual General Meeting), 29 September and 24 November.

## Redesigning NHS services, improving the quality of care

A public consultation has been launched to gather views around proposals to improve hospital and community NHS services along the south coast in West Sussex.

Clinicians have drawn up the plans in a bid to make patients safer, reduce the number of times patients need to be transferred between hospitals, and reduce the amount of time staff spend travelling between sites.

The three-month consultation process will give people the chance to have their say on plans to improve orthopaedic, elderly care, and ophthalmology (eye) services at St Richard's (Chichester), Worthing and Southlands Hospitals.

The proposed changes, called 'Service Redesign for Quality in West Sussex – Our proposals for better care', also include investment in better community services, especially for the elderly. Under the plans, major orthopaedic operations will now all take place close to critical care facilities, ophthalmology services will be provided in new state-of-the-art locations, and elderly care will be in one place, ending the need for patients to be transferred between sites. There will also be new community beds, and extra support from GPs and other medical staff to support people in their own home.

The consultation will be run jointly by NHS West Sussex and Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, which manages the three hospitals involved.

The formal public consultation process runs from 7 February to 29 April 2011.

As part of the consultation a series of public meetings will be held:

- 22 February, 2-4pm  
Mickerson Hall, Chichester Medical Education Centre, St Richard's Hospital, Spitalfield Lane, Chichester PO19 6SE
- 3 March, 6.30-8.30pm  
Shoreham Centre, 2 Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU
- 10 March, 6.30-8.30pm  
Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton Town Council, Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton BN17 5EW
- 15 March, 6.30-8.30pm  
Lecture Theatre, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Worthing Hospital, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing BN11 2DH
- 22 March, 6.30-8.30pm  
Southwick Community Centre, Southwick Street, Southwick BN42 4TE

Full details of the plans are available on the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust website at: [www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk)

To find out more, to order a copy of the consultation document including the feedback form, or to make any comments, you can:

Visit: [www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk)

Call: 01903 285222 ext 4038

Email: [consultationfeedback@wsht.nhs.uk](mailto:consultationfeedback@wsht.nhs.uk)

## NHS White Paper – have your say on public health

The NHS White Paper, *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*, was published on 12 July 2010. It set out proposals for devolving power from Whitehall to patients and professionals. Professionals will be free to focus on improving health outcomes so that they are amongst the best in the world. Improving the quality of care will become the main purpose of the NHS. Patients will get more choice and control, backed by an information revolution, so that services are more responsive to patients and designed around them, rather than patients having to fit around services. The principle will be 'no decisions about me without me'.

On 30 November 2010 the government published a further White Paper, *Health Lives, Healthy People*, which was specifically on public health. It set out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England. The plans outlined in *Health Lives, Healthy People* will transform public health and create, for the first time, a true 'wellness' service: 'Public Health England,' to meet the health challenges of today.

The Consultation, *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health*, can be downloaded at: [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_122916](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122916)

To have your say visit: [consultations.dh.gov.uk/healthy-people/funding-and-commissioning](http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/healthy-people/funding-and-commissioning)

Consultation closes on 31 March 2011.

## Working together to get a better deal for children with complex health needs

West Sussex recognises that services for children with complex health needs and disabilities need to change to ensure the availability of a combination of support and care by professionals working in a number of different services.

A comprehensive service review was launched last year to identify how changes could be achieved and was spearheaded by Dame Philippa Russell, a well-known figure in respect of services for the disabled and the chair of the National Children's Bureau. The review was supported by parents and professionals from NHS West Sussex and West Sussex County Council who have been keen to make sure improvements are made as soon as possible.

Dame Philippa has worked with the review team and focused on gathering feedback from parents and carers in recognition of the need to build greater partnerships with professionals, parents and children in order to bring about sustainable improvements. Surveys and workshops with parents, carers and health and social care professionals played an essential part in gaining support and engaging with those who really understand the issues. This gave the team a real insight into peoples' experiences and the opportunity to work on solutions together. A clear message was that improvements can be realised by making simple changes and not necessarily by introducing costly new services.

One parent said 'Making change happen in what all those economists call a 'cold climate' is going to be challenging. The politicians all talk about cuts. But if you ask the parents, you can do it better. We are the best investment for our children. It's not all about money, the most important things are attitudes, respect, understanding of our everyday lives. I hope this review makes a difference – if we parents are not part of the solution, we will certainly be part of the problem!'

Heather Mooney, specialist children's nurse and commissioner for children's continuing healthcare led the review team. She added 'We believe that the review has helped increase the understanding of the needs of children with complex health needs and disabilities and their families. The review aim is to bring about practical change on the ground – we are grateful for everyone's support which had made all the difference.'

The in depth review was carried out over six months and the findings and recommendations are now in a comprehensive report available by emailing Heather Mooney [heather.mooney@westsussexpct.nhs.uk](mailto:heather.mooney@westsussexpct.nhs.uk)

## Improving urgent and emergency care services for Children and Young People

Work continues on this priority programme which is supported by the Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

At a multi-agency workshop held before Christmas, members from the Institute congratulated the programme team on the extent of their progress so far – moving the project on from evaluation to developing tools and ideas which can now be further tested. Commitment from GPs, hospital clinicians and community staff has been evident in the development of two new care pathways and patient information sheets – one for fever and one for bronchiolitis – which were trialled recently by clinicians and patients.

Other initiatives include progressing ideas on a children's community nursing service, developing and testing out a GP-consultant hotline in Worthing and Chichester taking on board learning from other areas, as well as gathering patient experiences and promoting education resources in local schools.

A further workshop with clinicians and programme champions is to be held on 17 February where developments will be shared.

If you would like to be involved or learn more about the project, which aims to find new and improved ways to increase the quality, experience and convenience of children's urgent care services in the NHS, please contact [matthew.white@westsussexpct.nhs.uk](mailto:matthew.white@westsussexpct.nhs.uk) or visit: [www.westsussex.nhs.uk/improving-childrens-urgent-care](http://www.westsussex.nhs.uk/improving-childrens-urgent-care)

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