

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 October 2008

Subject: Update on various health issues on which the Committee has expressed an interest

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a number of issues in which the Committee has previously shown interest.

Access to Healthcare (Transport)

1. (1) The Committee will recall that the Committee agreed and it was subsequently incorporated by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee in the work programme for topic reviews that a piece of work should be undertaken by a Select Committee drawn from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as soon as resources were available, on Accessing Health Care (Transport Issues).

(2) This piece of work is now being picked up by Mr M Ayre, Policy Manager, who has been liaising with the Primary Care Trusts, transport operators and the Transport Section of the Environment and Regeneration Directorate on how best to deliver the piece of work based very much on the terms of reference and scope review which had been prepared by the Research Officer to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(3) I understand from Mr Ayre that at a recent meeting between the Chief Executive of the County Council and the two PCTs in Kent, it was agreed to undertake some intensive joint work on health and transport issues of the kind which have featured quite prominently in discussions about both the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospital Trust's service changes and work to identify the best location for the reprovision of services in Dover as the Buckland Hospital site and facilities have become unsustainable. The questions being tackled in this strategy development are:-

- are current and planned healthcare facilities in the best location with regard to their accessibility for those requiring access to them (i.e. patients, relatives/friends, staff)?
- how can existing transport infrastructure and facilities, planned/commissioned/provided by various agencies, be more effectively deployed?
- what are the examples of best practice we can import and replicate/adapt for Kent?

(4) This work will build on that already underway in East Kent. Partners are pooling resources to support a project approach – that is to say, task-and-finish.

(5) It is intended to report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the quality-assurance of the project by Spring 2009.

Picture of Health in Outer South East London

2. (1) The Committee will recall that following the attendance of Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Paul Wickenden at a meeting of a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Lambeth, Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked to join the Joint Committee. The Committee appointed Dr T R Robinson to serve on the Committee. Work has been ongoing over a period of time looking at the consultation for this part of South East London.

(2) At its meeting on 10 September 2008 the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to refer the reconfiguration proposals to the Secretary of State. Dr Robinson was unable to be present at this meeting and I was also unable to attend.

(3) The referral is on the basis of the following:

- (a) Concerns about the consultation and the lack of an Integrated Impact Assessment;
- (b) Inadequate information regarding the financial modelling;
- (c) The loss of services proposed for Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, for example, Accident and Emergency and Maternity services;
- (d) Issues around travel and accessibility; and
- (e) The lack of and the integrated impact assessment on Southwark and Lambeth.

Recommendation

3. The Committee are asked to note the report.

Paul Wickenden
Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager
01622 694486
paul.wickenden@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents: Project brief on improving health access in Kent through transport (attached).

Other Useful Information: None

Project brief on improving health access in Kent through transport

Background statement:

Kent County Council, Kent PCTs & Trusts are launching a project to improve greater accessibility to health facilities in Kent via transportable means. This will cover all geographic areas and demographic groups.

Proposed Terms of Reference:

This piece of work will examine and make recommendations on the following questions:

- Whether the current and planned healthcare facilities in Kent are in the most accessible locations and offer adequate facilities:
 - A. With reference to the *DfT PSA Target 3; Local Transport Plan (LTP) - [Accessibility Strategy for Kent \(ASK\)](#); the [South East Plan: A Clear Vision for the South-East](#) and the [South East England Health Strategy](#) – sustainable transport options, particularly at the new Pembury Hospital;*
 - B. Accessible parking, for those who require it; and
 - C. That all elements are planned with the range of patients in mind.
- Specifically explore if existing transport services i.e. the role of NHS Patient Transport Services might be used to a greater extent to help overcome transport-related problems in accessing healthcare services – including the role of volunteer drivers in facilitating access to healthcare services;
- What examples of good practice are present locally and elsewhere in the UK and Europe, and how these can be replicated in Kent.

Kent County Council will assist the health trusts who have committed resources to develop integrated Travel Plans drawing on good practice present locally and elsewhere in the UK and Europe. The work already undertaken by the East Kent Integrated Transport Working Group (EKITWG) and the outcomes* provides a good starting point for further joint accessibility-planning involving KCC, the NHS, District councils, transport providers, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders.

The key outcomes of the East Kent Integrated Transport Working Group:

- Refresh of 3 'Getting to hospital' leaflets – 35,000 of each distributed to every:
 - GP surgery in EK;
 - Acute medical site;
 - Static and mobile library;
 - Manned railway station;
 - Parish and District council office, including the “Gateways” in Ashford and Thanet;

- Patient contact centre and Patient Advice and Liaison Service of EKHT for distribution with appointment letters;
 - Bus information offices;
 - County Member and the Leader of each of the District councils in East Kent
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- Creation of a new website drawing together all of the strands of transport (www.eastkenthsgettingthere.nhs.uk)
 - Review of the existing “Health Hopper” service between the 3 EK hospitals, and planning for a new Health Shuttle
 - New out of hours service for patients discharged from A&E
 - Revised procedure for claims of Hospital Travel Costs Scheme
 - Review of transport guidance given by Patient Advice and Liaison Service
 - A fact-finding visit to Stevenage in Hertfordshire to review their health transport projects