

ENSURING A PATIENT-LED NHS IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Introduction

This leaflet summarises local proposals for changes to the way the NHS is structured and managed in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, as part of the drive to ensure a patient-led NHS. Your views on these proposals are important and will contribute towards a report to the Secretary of State for Health who will make the final decision on local NHS configuration.

The consultation is about how many health organisations – Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and NHS Ambulance Trusts – there need to be in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to ensure good health and healthcare for local people.

Consultation on these proposals will end on 22 March 2006.

Why change?

Currently we have one Strategic Health Authority, ten Primary Care Trusts and separate ambulance services for mainland Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the latter being part of the Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust. The last major change to the shape of NHS organisations took place in 2002. Over the last few years much has changed in the way healthcare needs to be delivered. We now need to see if the NHS can be more efficient and effective, for example by having fewer statutory organisations responsible for the planning and delivery of health services.

Similar changes are happening across the country.

Proposals for Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Initial discussions have already taken place with local stakeholder organisations, including local health organisations, local authorities (Hampshire County Council, District Councils and the Unitary Councils covering Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight), staff representative bodies and others.

These discussions led to the proposals set out below.

Strategic Health Authorities

Currently there is one Strategic Health Authority for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. There are three other Strategic Health Authorities in the South East of England. These cover Thames Valley (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire), Surrey & Sussex and Kent & Medway.

We are consulting on two options, both of which would replace the four existing Strategic Health Authorities.

Option 1: One Strategic Health Authority for the South East replacing the four existing Strategic Health Authorities. The new organisation would cover the same area as the Government Office for the South East.

Option 2: Two Strategic Health Authorities for the South East. One Strategic Health Authority would cover Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Thames Valley. The other Strategic Health Authority would cover Kent & Medway and Surrey & Sussex. Both of these proposed Strategic Health Authorities would be within the boundaries of the Government Office for the South East.

The preliminary view of the four existing Strategic Health Authorities is that a new Strategic Health Authority covering the whole of the South East region would be less able to tackle the financial and performance challenges facing the NHS in the South East than two authorities each covering half the area. But we want to hear what you think.

Primary Care Trusts

Options being consulted upon for the future configuration of Primary Care Trusts in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are as follows:

- Retaining a Primary Care Trust for Portsmouth, covering the same area as Portsmouth City Council
- Retaining a Primary Care Trust for Southampton, covering the same area as Southampton City Council
- Two options in Hampshire County:
EITHER
One single Primary Care Trust for Hampshire County
OR
Three separate Primary Care Trusts for Hampshire County covering Northern, Eastern and Western areas
- A single health organisation for the Isle of Wight (see below)

The Isle of Wight

We believe there are special circumstances on the Isle of Wight. Public sector organisations have unique challenges in maintaining safe, accessible and sustainable services because:

- It has the largest population of any United Kingdom island with a resident population of 136,000. However, this population is still relatively small when planning many health services.
- Health service planning is also affected by the high numbers of visitors which mean that the population can double in peak holiday periods.
- Transport links to the mainland entail additional travel time and cost.

A long standing aim of the NHS bodies and the local unitary authority on the Isle of Wight has been the creation of a single integrated organisation covering health and social care. The planning of this had been led by a small, dedicated Transition Project Team.

In view of these circumstances it is proposed to create a single organisation which will oversee the commissioning and provision of all National Health Services including acute hospital services, mental health services, community, primary care and ambulance services.

Work will continue with the Isle of Wight Council to consider future integration of health and social care.

NHS Ambulance Trusts

It is proposed to create a new NHS Trust to provide an ambulance service across the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire.

In view of the special circumstances of the Isle of Wight, the responsibility for the management of the ambulance service is proposed to remain on the Island as part of the new body that will oversee the commissioning and provision of all National Health Services on the Isle of Wight.

These proposals have been developed following a nationwide review *Taking Healthcare to the Patient: transforming NHS Ambulance Services* which sets out a vision for transforming Ambulance Services so that in future they provide an increasing range of services for people needing urgent care including care at home.

The consultation is not about the number of Control Centres, Ambulance Stations or Ambulances on the road. Instead it is about how the service is managed.

Anticipated benefits of these changes would include reduced management costs and more investment in front line services. This would improve the ability of ambulance services to handle major incidents and enhance their capacity to respond to financial and service challenges.

Implications of these proposals

These proposals are for organisational and managerial changes. They will not change the way frontline services are delivered. If the new organisations want to make changes to services in future then these changes would be subject to the normal arrangements for public engagement and consultation.

Instead, these changes will ensure that public money is spent on effective management, and that overall management costs are reduced so that money can be reinvested into frontline services.

Consultation Process

Consultation on these proposals ends on 22 March 2006. The results of the local consultation will be reviewed by 12 April 2006 and submitted to the Secretary of State for final decision.

Consultation Documents

Copies of the full consultation documents can be obtained:

From our website: www.hiow.nhs.uk/cplnhs

In writing from: Director of Corporate Affairs
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority
Oakley Road
SOUTHAMPTON SO16 4GX

Or: Project Director
Transition Project
92 Carisbrooke Road
NEWPORT PO30 1BW
Transition.team@iow.gov.uk

Making Your Views Known

Views and comments on these proposals should be sent:

In writing to: Sir Ian Carruthers OBE
Chief Executive
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority
Oakley Road
SOUTHAMPTON SO16 4GX

By email to: consultation@hiowha.nhs.uk

By fax to: 023 8072 5587 marked '**CPLNHS consultation**'

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your comments by 22 March 2006