

Subject: Brighton & Hove 'Out Of Hours' GP Provision
Date of Meeting: 14 April 2010
Report of: The Director of Strategy and Governance
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are required to commission 'Out Of Hours' GP services to cover the times of the day when local GP surgeries are not open (generally 6pm until 8am).
- 1.2 Recent national media attention on this topic has highlighted claims that Out Of Hours services vary very considerably in quality between PCT areas, and that some areas offer an inadequate level of service. Given this recent publicity, the Chairman of Brighton & Hove Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) thought that it would be sensible to check on the level of provision commissioned for city residents by NHS Brighton & Hove.
- 1.3 **Appendix 1** to this report consists of material provided by NHS Brighton & Hove on city Out Of Hours GP services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note the contents of this report and determine whether they need to take any further action.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2004 national GP contracts were re-negotiated. The new contract effectively permitted GPs to opt out of providing Out Of Hours services, and the great majority of GPs duly did so.

- 3.2 To cover the resultant gap, PCTs were required to commission Out Of Hours GP services. Currently, NHS Brighton & Hove commissions these services from South East Health, a not-for-profit independent sector provider. More information on the details of this contract is included in **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 3.3 It may be worth bearing in mind that GP Out Of Hours services are only one element of city out of hours primary healthcare: other services include the NHS Direct telephone advice and assessment service, community healthcare services (such as District Nurses etc.), the city centre GP-led Health Centre, and the Urgent Care Centre located at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. If the issue is whether Brighton & Hove Out Of Hours provision is adequate, it would seem sensible to look at city services in the round rather than focusing solely on one aspect of care delivery.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None has been undertaken.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 None to this report for information.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 None to this report for information.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 None to this report for information.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None to this report for information.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None to this report for information.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None to this report for information.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 None to this report for information.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Information provided by NHS Brighton & Hove

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

