

Stakeholder submission to the North East Review Panel

Phase II: Secondary Care

A North East Review Panel has been established to consider evidence on health status and health services in the northeast area of West Sussex. The Panel will make recommendations to the Board of West Sussex Primary Care Trust by the end of 2008.

This submission will form part of the evidence considered by the Panel as part of the Review. You may be called on to discuss the contents of your submission in more detail at a panel meeting in public. Please note that this submission will be published on the PCT's website where it will be in the public domain.

Please complete your contact details below.

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If you are making this submission on behalf of an organisation or individuals, please provide brief details: This submission is made on behalf of East Grinstead Town Council, one of the stakeholders in the North East Review. The response has been agreed in conjunction with our specific member representatives who have attended meetings of the review group, namely Councillor Mrs Virginia Waddingham, Town Mayor and Councillor Mrs Heidi Brunsdon, Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Please use the pages overleaf to outline your concerns about and proposals for the delivery of secondary care in the northeast area of West Sussex.

Please email your completed submission by **no later than 12 September 2008** to claire.hollis@westsussexpct.nhs.uk. You can also post your submission to: Claire Hollis, Stakeholder Submission, North East Review Support Team, 1 The Causeway, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6BT.

Further information about the North East Review can be found at:

<http://www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/about-us/north-east-review/>

Outline of gaps/inequities in provision of and access to secondary care services in the northeast area of West Sussex. This includes Mid Sussex, Horsham and Crawley.

The Town Council supports the submission of the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and note that its proposals are in line with Lord Darzi's *Next Stage Review* and South East Coast SHA's *Healthier People, Excellent Care* and particularly with the central theme of bringing specialist and community services closer to home, and ensuring access to health care is as good as it can be. We recognise that there are real opportunities at Queen Victoria Hospital to fill some of the gaps that currently exist and that may be identified by the North East Review and see real benefit, particularly in an area such as East Grinstead which does have poor public transport links to deliver health services closer to home. In this we recognise that the Queen Victoria Hospital does have the opportunity to deliver more specialist and some local acute services for the North East area of West Sussex.

Secondly the Council supports the endeavours of the Support the Princess Royal Hospital Campaign and share their concerns at the proposed removal of both consultant obstetric and midwife-delivered maternity services from the Princess Royal Hospital. We are seriously concerned that this will leave a significant gap in service provision, and that gap would be particularly damaging to residents of East Grinstead whose only alternative would be across the county boundary in East Surrey.

Outline how you believe the gaps/inequities in secondary care outlined above can best be addressed.

We believe there are opportunities to provide additional secondary care services at the Queen Victoria Hospital including for example:

- extend the range of diagnostics available;
- to deliver additional outpatients clinics including for ear, nose and throat services;
- in enhancing oncology care to include a wider delivery of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on an outpatients basis with such services being offered as a spoke to a major cancer centre;
- to provide renal dialysis services to avoid the need for patients to travel lengthy distances usually to the south coast, and
- to expand and broaden services for local general ophthalmic needs.

All of the above could be achievable given the possibilities that exist with the current hospital site and the timeliness of the current redevelopment consultation proposal.

With regard to midwifery services we believe the proposals put forward by *Support the Princess Royal Hospital Campaign* are sound and we wish to emphasize the Town Council's 100% support for the case that has been made.

Additional comments

We are concerned that there is an alarming lack of knowledge about services that are available within specific hospitals and that is particularly evident across the county boundaries. This lack of knowledge appears to apply to patients and general practitioners equally and to PCTs in relation to services delivered from outside their county boundaries but which impact upon their communities. The Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust submission makes clear that there needs to be a comprehensive (jargon free) directory of services that is widely available and accessible and we urge the Review Panel to give consideration to this, ensuring that such directory covers the whole of South East Region.

There are also alarming concerns regarding the provision of ambulance services and their availability. During the course of the North East Review our Member representatives heard alarming comments regarding the times that can be taken for ambulances to arrive and distances that are being travelled. This can have serious indeed fatal consequences. Again we urge the North East Review panel to satisfy itself that its final report does address not only secondary care services provision issues but also related issues governing transport and ambulance services generally.

Finally we wish to ask the Panel to satisfy itself that the population growth projections for the East Grinstead area, specifically in relation to overall numbers and the ageing of the population, are sound and robust and do have regard to the likely population growth that will emanate from the proposed strategic development and other house building required under the South East plan and Mid Sussex Core Strategy.

Please list below any documentary evidence that you have used when producing this submission. You do not need to submit the evidence, but the Panel may request copies.

EVIDENCE		
Document	Author(s)	Brief description
Building our Future.. Your Hospital	QVHFT	A Consultation Document
Stakeholder Submission	Support the Princess Royal Hospital Campaign	Submission September 2008