

Subject:	GP Sustainability		
Date of Meeting:	06 September 2017		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Giles Rossington	Tel: 01273 295514
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on local efforts to ensure that general practice (GP) services in the city remain sustainable.
- 1.2 Additional information on GP sustainability will be provided by Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) at the committee meeting. It has not proved possible to circulate this information in advance of the meeting as it includes material that is not currently in the public domain and which is potentially commercially sensitive. This material will however be in the public domain by 06 September.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note this report and the information provided by the CCG; and
- 2.2 Determine what further scrutiny of this issue is required, if any.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 GP practices are small business which contract with the NHS to provide a wide range of primary healthcare services. In recent years, General Practice has come under increasing strain, and there are now significant national concerns about the sustainability of the current service model. Problems include: GP recruitment and retention; the continuing relevance of the 'partnership' model; workload; quality; and the suitability of premises.
- 3.2 All these national issues are being experienced locally. For example, several local GP practices have shut in the past two years, and it was recently announced that the Ridgeway surgery will also close.
- 3.3 Brighton & Hove HOSC has been monitoring NHS plans to address local GP sustainability issues for a number of years, via a series of member workshops and reports to committee.

3.4 Members should note that NHS England (NHSE) has been responsible for commissioning GP services since 2013. Previous HOSC updates have consequently been led by NHSE. However, under 'co-commissioning' arrangements, Brighton & Hove CCG is now jointly responsible for GP commissioning and will present this and further updates.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 None to this report for information.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 None to this report. NHS commissioners undertake formal community engagement & consultation when making significant changes to GP services (for example if a surgery is closing).

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Members are asked to note the update on local work to sustain General Practice.

6.2 Members are also asked to consider how to further scrutinise this issue: e.g. by requesting additional update reports.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 None to this report for information

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no legal implications to this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 08/08/17

Equalities Implications:

7.3 None directly. When contemplating making changes to GP provision, NHS commissioners must consider the equality risks and implications of their plans – e.g. the impact on vulnerable patients of losing continuity of care and/or having to travel further to access primary care services. This will usually be via a formal equality risk assessment process

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None directly. The closure of local GP surgeries may potentially have an adverse impact on sustainability to the degree that patients are required to travel further in order to access a GP.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None identified.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

