

Subject:	NHS Brighton & Hove Response to HOSC Ad Hoc Panel Recommendations regarding the Brighton & Hove GP-Led Health Centre		
Date of Meeting:	30 September 2009		
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 This report presents NHS Brighton & Hove's response to the recommendations made by the HOSC ad hoc panel set up to consider the PCT's procurement of a city GP-Led Health Centre.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note NHS Brighton & Hove's response (see **Appendix 1**) to the ad hoc panel's recommendations.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At its 04.03.09 meeting, HOSC agreed to form an ad hoc panel to look at issues relating to NHS Brighton & Hove's procurement of a city GP-Led Health Centre. The panel reported back to HOSC at its 08.07.09 committee meeting, where the panel's recommendations were endorsed by the full committee. The HOSC Chairman subsequently wrote to the Chief Executive of NHS Brighton & Hove, requesting a formal response to these recommendations.
- 3.2 In essence, the panel's work consisted of examining the process by which NHS Brighton & Hove had contracted for running a city centre GP surgery with extended opening hours. This was part of a national initiative to improve access to primary care, particularly for people who

are not registered with a GP or who are temporarily unable to access their own GP (e.g. commuters, tourists etc).

3.3 Particular concerns included the reputation of the successful bidder for the contract, whether NHS Brighton & Hove had undertaken adequate public consultation in respect of this contract, and whether the competitive tender process favoured particular types of bidder (i.e. large and/or independent sector concerns).

3.4 In general the panel found that NHS Brighton & Hove had acted in accordance with best practice at all stages of the tender, with the contract being awarded to the most competitive bidder, and with an adequate degree of public consultation/involvement. However, the panel did have some concerns and ideas about this tender, and about NHS competitive tenders in general, and these were embodied in a series of recommendations to NHS Brighton & Hove.

3.5 The ad hoc panel's recommendations were:

- (1) The Panel recommends that NHS Brighton & Hove pays particular attention to monitoring the GP-Led Health Centre contract, given Care UK's uneven record as a provider of high quality healthcare;
- (2) The Panel recommends that HOSC should request a report from NHS Brighton & Hove on its strategy to improve the commercial competitiveness of local health care providers;
- (3) The Panel recommends that HOSC requests a comprehensive update on the above issues, to be received after the GP-Led Health Centre has been in operation for twelve months or so;
- (4) The Panel commends NHS Brighton & Hove for its constructive approach to sharing information in relation to the GP-Led Health Centre. It is to be hoped that the PCT will be similarly open in terms of other procurements, and will endeavour to place as much information about tenders as possible in the public domain;
- (5) When it launches future initiatives, NHS Brighton & Hove should give serious consideration to ensuring that there is a method via which members of the public can present their views, even in situations where full public consultation would not be appropriate.

3.6 NHS Brighton & Hove's formal response to the ad hoc panel recommendations is reprinted in **Appendix 1** to this report. In brief, the PCT has agreed to undertake or is already undertaking all the panel's recommendations. The ad hoc panel report and the NHS Brighton &

Hove response will be presented for information to a future Full Council meeting.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in preparing this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 None to this report for information

Legal Implications:

5.2 *"The Health and Social Care Act 2001 Sections 7-10 and the Overview and Scrutiny Health Function Regulations 2002 set out the legal powers for Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to health issues and the duties of the NHS to support those powers. The powers of HOSC include reporting to the Secretary of State where it feels that the proposal would not be in the interests of the health service in the area."*

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert; Date: 27/08/09

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None identified

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None identified

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None identified

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None identified

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None identified

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. NHS Brighton & Hove's formal response to the ad hoc panel recommendations

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None