

Subject: **Comparative Mortality Rates for Hospital Admissions on Weekends and Week Days**

Date of Meeting: **May 09 2012**

Report of: **The Strategic Director, Resources**

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Brighton & Hove HOSC members recently requested information on the performance of the Royal Sussex County Hospital in terms of the comparative outcomes for patients admitted to hospital during the week Vs those admitted at the weekend.
- 1.2 Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust (BSUHT) has kindly provided information on comparative performance, which is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:

Note the contents of this report and its appendix.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 It is a well established fact that outcomes for people admitted to hospital with emergency conditions may vary significantly depending on when they are admitted – e.g. whether admissions are in normal working hours when the hospital is fully staffed, or out of hours (i.e. at night or on weekends), when fewer senior clinicians are working and some services may be unavailable.

- 3.2 Information on comparative performance across English hospitals is annually collated and published by the 'Dr Foster' organisation. Data for 2011 is available at: http://drfosterintelligence.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Hospital_Guide_2011.pdf
- 3.3 Without significant additional funding it may be inevitable that there remains some variation between outcomes for patients admitted to hospital in or out of hours: it is simply not possible to provide the same level of service 24/7 with current hospital funding. However, it is definitely not the case that nothing can be done to improve out of hours outcomes. The Dr Foster data shows, for example, considerable variations in performance between hospitals, and also demonstrates that hospitals which manage to have senior clinicians on-site out of hours typically out-perform hospitals which do not.
- 3.4 This issue of comparative performance is not limited to patient mortality, but effects all types of clinical outcomes. However, mortality is a relatively simple outcome to measure, and is therefore used as a proxy by Dr Foster. BSUHT were asked to provide data on mortality and to do so for week days Vs weekends, as these were, relatively speaking, the easiest categories to research.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust, and Appendix 1 to this report was provided by the trust.

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 Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust

Documents in Members' Rooms:

Background Documents:

"Inside Your Hospital": Dr Foster Hospital Guide 2011

