

eBulletin

Issue 41 – 4 March 2009

This issue of the eBulletin from West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) includes updates on World Class Commissioning, 18 Weeks targets, the launch of Critical Care Paramedics and the Every Disabled Child Matters charter.

West Sussex PCT committed to World Class Commissioning

West Sussex PCT is committed to achieving the goal of becoming a World Class Commissioner, delivering outstanding performance in the way that it commissions health and care services.

The World Class Commissioning scheme includes an annual assurance process where external assessors look at how the PCT is performing in three broad categories: strategy, governance and 10 'competencies' that include, for example, engagement with the public and clinicians. Each of the competencies is rated from one to four, with one representing a starting point and four representing 'world class'.

In its first set of results, published recently, the PCT did well – we were assessed as being at level two in nine out of the ten competencies, and level one on the remaining category – with measures in place to progress to level two.

Find out more about World Class Commissioning, including more about the PCT's scores, on our website at www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/about-us/world-class-commissioning/

PCT meets 18 Weeks targets

Thanks to a huge amount of hard work, dedication and goodwill, by the end of December 2008 more than 90% of appropriate patients in West Sussex waited no more than 18 weeks between GP referral and the start of their inpatient treatment.

December 2008 was the government deadline for reducing waiting times to 18 weeks. It was also a time when the health service was facing severe winter pressures. The achievement would not have been possible without the efforts of everybody involved across the county's NHS and social care sector as a whole.

The PCT plans to continue with and build on these achievements by ensuring that such performance becomes routine – while not losing sight of service quality.

Find out more about 18 weeks on our website at: www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/our-services/18-weeks/

084 telephone numbers in the NHS

The Department of Health is considering banning the use of 084 numbers in the NHS. Some people value the additional service that 084 numbers can offer, such as choosing from a menu of options and being automatically directed to the most appropriate place. Other people object to being charged more than the cost of a local call to access NHS services.

If you would wish to make your views known then please take part in the Department of Health consultation which runs from 16 December 2008 until 31 March 2009:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_091879

Or send your response to:

084 Consultation Responses, Department of Health, 2N16 Quarry House, Leeds LS2 7UE.

Specialist paramedics team launched on 2 March

Seriously ill patients in West Sussex will now receive a wider range of care and treatment thanks to the launch of a brand new team of Critical Care Paramedics.

Critical Care Paramedics have undergone further university training and have been specially trained to attend the most serious 999 emergencies, such as road traffic collisions and stabbings. Critical Care Paramedics will also attend serious life threatening medical conditions such as asthma, stroke, heart attack, obstetric and paediatric emergencies.

There are currently 12 Critical Care Paramedics working across West Sussex and it is hoped there will be more than 90 working in Sussex, Surrey and Kent by 2012.

Find out more at: www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/news-and-events/pr-march-2009/specialist-paramedics-set-to-save-more-lives-in-west-sussex/

Arun students find out more about alcohol misuse

Hundreds of Year 9 pupils in Arun have been learning more about the consequences of binge drinking as a specially-designed theatre production visits their schools and colleges. Through a play and workshops, students have been learning more about how alcohol can affect the way that people think and behave and discussing how they can make decisions that protect themselves, their families and friends.

A team of doctors, police, NSPCC professionals and teachers have developed the production which is being performed by the Solomon Theatre Company. It is being coordinated in the area by the Arun Community Alcohol Liaison team (ACAL) and supported by the Arun Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

Find out more at: www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/news-and-events/pr-february-2009/last-orders-for-young-people-in-arun/

Every Disabled Child Matters

West Sussex PCT and West Sussex County Council have jointly signed up to the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' charters, agreeing to improve the services they provide for disabled children and their families.

The 'Every Disabled Child Matters' campaign wants disabled children and their families to get the right services and support. It also wants disabled children and their families to shape the way that services are planned, commissioned and delivered.

Although there are separate charters for primary care trusts and local authorities, many of the commitments within them are common. The PCT and County Council are jointly committed to integrated working for disabled children and their families, making it easier for those who need help to be able to access services.

Find out more about the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' campaign at www.edcm.org.uk.

Review of services in the north-east of the county

On 24 February, the West Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) met and examined the report and recommendations of the North East Review panel responsible for the review of services in the north-east of West Sussex. While there was considerable support for and understanding of the outcomes of the extensive service review, there were continuing concerns about hospital capacity in the north-east.

Sir Graeme Catto, President of the General Medical Council and Chairman of the panel that carried out the review, was at the meeting to present the panel's findings and recommendations. PCT Chief Executive John Wilderspin also outlined the PCT's plans and emphasised that evaluating capacity in the north-east is a PCT priority.

The PCT Board supported in principle the 45 recommendations in the North East Review report at its meeting on 29 January.

The Board will make a final determination, taking into account the views expressed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its next meeting on 26 March 2009.

View the North East Review report at:

www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/about-us/north-east-review/north-east-review-report/

Rural access to healthcare services

The date has been set for the next Rural Access Workshop on 18 May 2009. The agenda is expected to focus on how we can develop shared delivery across different services and organisations in West Sussex.

Further details are on the Rural Access web page at:

www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/about-us/rural-access-to-health-services.

If you feel your organisation should be involved, please contact Steve Plumb on 01903 707426 or email steve.plumb@westsussexpct.nhs.uk.

When stroke strikes, act F.A.S.T.

A three-year campaign from the Department of Health is teaching people to spot the signs of stroke – the third leading cause of death and the single largest cause of adult disability in England.

The campaign is asking people to remember F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) to help them recognise the signs of stroke and appreciate the need for fast emergency treatment. The faster a stroke patient receives treatment, the better their chances of surviving and avoiding long-term disability.

Find out more about the campaign at www.nhs.uk/actfast/

Next PCT Board meeting: 26 March 2009

West Sussex PCT holds Board meetings in public (usually bi-monthly) at different venues across the county to discuss and make decisions on local health matters. The next meeting will take place on 26 March 2009 at **2pm, Hilton Avisford Park, Yapton Lane, Walberton, Arundel BN18 0LS**. Time will be set aside for questions from members of the public who are welcome to attend the meeting.

Further meetings are currently scheduled for:

- 21 May 2009
- 30 July 2009
- 2 September
- 24 September 2009 (Annual General Meeting)
- 22 October 2009
- 26 November 2009

The agenda and papers for each Board meeting (including the venue) are sent to public libraries and local authority HELP POINTS.

The Board papers are also posted on the PCT website at:

www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk/about-us/publication-scheme/meetings/board-meetings/