

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2012**

Councillors Bradley, Dickson (P), Forder (Chairman) (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs, Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle and Miss West (P).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Edgar – Health Spokesperson for Gosport Borough Council
Dr Bob Pennells – Medical Advisor for the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Working Group
Brenda Brooker – Press and Publicity Officer

26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Foster-Reed, Jacobs and Mrs Searle.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14th November 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

29. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

- (i) GOSPORT MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT SERVICES – MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Consideration was given to the report by the Chairman of the Committee on behalf of the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services – Minor Injuries Unit Working Group which outlined the final findings of the Working Group.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Edgar, Dr Bob Pennells and the Press and Publicity Officer to the meeting.

The Chairman circulated an article from The News which highlighted the rise in patients using the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) (attached to these minutes as appendix 1).

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The Chairman explained that since the report for the MIU had been written an additional issue had come to light; the use of private ambulances by South Central Ambulance Service. The Chairman explained that he had written to the Head of Operations, East Hampshire, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust and received the response which was circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting in the supplementary agenda.

The Committee was satisfied with the response and agreed that the letter and response would be attached to the MIU scrutiny report as appendix 11.

It was also agreed that the following addition would be made under paragraph 3.2.6 of the report: "After the formal meetings had been concluded an issue concerning the use of private ambulances arose and was reported upon in the local press. An exchange of correspondence between the Chairman and the Head of Operations of South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust is attached (appendix 11)"

The Chairman advised the Committee that the report did not need further approval from another Board, and if the report was approved at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting then the Chief Executive and Press and Publicity Officer would implement the recommendations in the report, before the report was taken to the Full Council meeting in March 2012.

Councillor Edgar advised the Committee that a similar number of Gosport residents were attending the MIU that attended Haslar. Since Haslar, Gosport had a better ambulance provision and a good MIU. The NHS had provided a good provision of health care on the peninsular and was glad that the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services – Minor Injuries Unit report reflected that. He concluded that there was still a need for increased and sustained publicity of the MIU.

The Press and Publicity Officer reported that contact had been made with the MIU in December 2011 and a definitive list had been received of what could and could not be treated at the MIU. This list was to be published in the next edition of Coastline. The Committee was also informed that the MIU had applied for an advert in Coastline. Finally the Press and Publicity Officer advised the Committee that the MIU could not afford to produce business cards like St Marys Health Centre in Portsmouth.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Working Group wanted to produce a personalised feature of one of the nurse practitioners from the MIU. It would explain what the MIU was; what it treated; and correct any wrong preconceptions about the role of nurses. The Chairman hoped that the promotion of the MIU would also continue in The News.

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The Chairman informed the Committee of future actions he would undertake, should the report be adopted. A report would be sent to all witnesses who had taken part in the scrutiny; a letter would be sent to all GP Surgeries in Gosport informing them of the scrutiny and providing a link to the report; and a letter would be sent to the Portsmouth Primary Care Trust informing them of the report.

RESOLVED: That the report and the amendment detailed above to the report be adopted.

(ii) GOSPORT MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT SERVICES –
VASCULAR SURGERY

Consideration was given to a verbal report by the Chairman of the Committee on updates on the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services – Vascular Surgery Scrutiny Working Group.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Working Group had held two evidence gathering meetings. The first was with Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster (SHIP) and Portsmouth Hospital Trust. The second with two GP's, who were the Chair and Vice Chair of the Gosport and Fareham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The Committee discussed the two model options for vascular surgery; stand alone or network and the future role of CCGs.

The Committee were advised that SHIP were due to publish the consultation document on Vascular Surgery on Monday, 16th January 2012, however this had been delayed by a week until Monday, 23rd January 2012. The Working Group felt that there was poor communication between SHIP and the hospitals on the south coast. As such the Working Group had written to the Chief Executive of the South Central Strategic Health Authority, (letter attached to these minutes as appendix 2).

Councillor Edgar confirmed that Fareham and Havant Borough Council's had not taken part in any consultations on vascular surgery.

Councillor Edgar advised the Committee that the work of the Vascular Surgery Scrutiny Working Group had been important in bringing the issue of vascular surgery to the forefront and ensuring that the consultation period was fair and transparent.

Councillor Edgar stated that Interventional Radiology was the surgery of the future and that it was important that Portsmouth Hospital retained that facility, whatever the outcome of the vascular surgery consultation.

The Chairman advised the Committee that Councillor Scard was the Vice Chairman of the Working Group.

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RESOLVED: That the verbal report of the Chairman of the Committee be noted.

(iii) CONSTITUTION – REVIEW OF PART 4

Consideration was given to a report by the Borough Solicitor on the final findings of the Constitution Review Scrutiny Working Group.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Committee recommend to Full Council an amendment to standing order 4.11.8 as set out in appendix 5 of the report; and
- b) Councillors be asked how they would like to be addressed.

30. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

a) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

No requests had been received.

Councillor Kimber advised the Committee that Project Integra was no longer scrutinising its activities. This meant that such scrutiny would now be the Borough Council's responsibility. Procedures for such Borough Council scrutiny would be formulated.

b) WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Chairman's Annual Report for 2011/12 would be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2012.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

c) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

No requests were received.

31. AOB

There were no other items of business.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN