

TITLE	Health Consultations
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 March 2012
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Muir Laurie, Director Business Assurance and Democratic Services

OUTCOME

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are informed of the current “live” health consultations.

RECOMMENDATION

To decide on which of the “live” Consultations the Committee would like to be consulted on and respond to prior to the deadline dates.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This paper provides an overview of “live” consultations in relation to health policy as of 20 March 2012. Details provided on all “live” consultations have been taken directly from the Department of Health website.

For further information on consultations please refer to the Department of Health or Directgov websites, see link below –

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm>

- 1. Transfer of Berkshire Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) – see attached letter**

Launch Date **8th March 2012**

Closing Date **28th March 2012**

The Trust is currently considering the future configuration of the Emergency Operations Centres in South Central Ambulance Service. This review may lead to the transfer of the Berkshire call centre from Wokingham to our two other call centres located at Bicester and Otterbourne. From a patient and public perspective services will remain unchanged but it is believed that the reduction in our EOCs from three to two will improve our future resilience and enhance our call taking capability enabling us to remain a top performing Ambulance Trust. We are aiming to take a paper to our Board for approval on 28th March which will lead to a formal consultation with affected staff. Last year the Trust held several local engagement events on this subject with no significant concerns being raised. As this is primarily a management decision and not a significant change in the provision of services we do not believe that there is a need for formal public consultation but I would welcome your confirmation on this point. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the subject on a more personal basis please do not

hesitate to contact me.

Contact: Duncan Burke

Address: 7-8 Talisman Business Centre
Talisman Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 6HR

Telephone: 01869 365000

2. Consultation on low secure services and psychiatric intensive care

Launch date: 19 January 2012

Closing date: 19 April 2012

A consultation document on low secure services and psychiatric intensive care is being issued for a three month consultation by stakeholders.

The purpose of this consultation is to invite the views of stakeholders on how new guidance will operate by explaining the rationale behind the strategic approach and raising questions which cover a broad range of issues.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the NHS will undergo a period of substantial change in how it commissions health services. The planned changes will introduce a new commissioning architecture, formally establishing a new NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups.

Over the course of transition to the new system, the responsibilities of Strategic Health Authorities, regional specialised commissioning groups and primary care trusts will largely transfer to the NHS Commissioning Board and to clinical commissioning groups.

Under the proposed commissioning arrangements, the NHS Commissioning Board will commission services to include primary care, veterans and offender health services and those services that fall into the national specialised services definition set, for example secure services. Clinical commissioning groups will commission local health services including community and non-specialised inpatient mental health services.

Contact: Secure Services Policy Team

Address: Mental Health and Disability Room 225
Wellington House
133-135 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

Link: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/consultation-on-low-secure-services-and-psychiatric-intensive-care/>

3. GMC and GDC (Constitution) (Amendment) Orders - a paper for consultation

Launch date: 21 February 2012

Closing date: 15 May 2012

This consultation seeks views on the proposed changes for the General Medical Council (GMC) and the General Dental Council constitution orders.

The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) published an interim report, Board Size and effectiveness: advice to the Department of Health regarding health professional regulators on these two issues in September 2011. The advice was that 'boards with a range of 8-12 members are associated with greater effectiveness' and advised that 'the chair should be independently recruited and appointed rather than elected from within the board membership'.

Following the CHRE's recommendations the Department for Health is proposing to change the legislation for the GMC and the GDC to reduce the size of their governing councils and to enable them to appoint their next chair. This consultation seeks views on this proposal. It is primarily aimed at the health professions regulatory bodies, their registrants and service users but all views are welcome.

Contact: Elaine Plumb

Address: Workforce, Professional Standards 2N11

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds

LS2 7UE

Link http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_132742

4. UK Plan for rare diseases consultation launched

Launch date: 29 February 2012

Closing date: 25 May 2012

This is a UK-wide consultation undertaken by the Department of Health on behalf of all 4 UK health administrations. The consultation on rare diseases has been launched following the European Council's recommendation that every member state of the European Union should develop a national strategy on rare diseases. Responses to the consultation will inform the final plan, which is due to be produced by the end of 2013. The UK participates in rare disease research at European level and will be actively involved in the new International Rare Disease Research Consortium.

The rare diseases consultation:

- recommends using specialist centres to make exact diagnosis – this will make sure people are treated earlier and in some cases this could save lives;
- acknowledges that all doctors should have the right training to be aware of the possibility of a rare disease; and
- recommends that the care of patients with rare diseases should be better co-ordinated.

Contact: Sarah Bramley-Harker

Address: Screening & Specialised Services Team
 Department of Health
 England Quarry House
 Quarry Hill
 Leeds
 LS2 7UE

Email: rarediseasesconsultationresponses@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Link <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/consultation-rare-diseases/>

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

N/A

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Service Democratic Services

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Date 20 March 2012

Version No. 1



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Thursday 8th March 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Transfer of Berkshire Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

I write to advise that the Trust is currently considering the future configuration of Emergency Operations Centres in SCAS. This review may lead to the transfer of the Berkshire call centre from Wokingham to our two other call centres located at Bicester and Otterbourne.

From a patient and public perspective services will remain unchanged but we believe that the reduction in our EOCs from three to two will improve our future resilience and enhance our call taking capability enabling us to remain a top performing Ambulance Trust.

We are aiming to take a paper to our Board for approval on 28th March which will lead to a formal consultation with affected staff. Last year the Trust held several local engagement events on this subject with no significant concerns being raised. As this is primarily a management decision and not a significant change in the provision of services we do not believe that there is a need for formal public consultation but I would welcome your confirmation on this point.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the subject on a more personal basis please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Burke

Director of Communications and Public Engagement