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| TITLE | Broadmoor Hospital Alert Sirens Update |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24 March 2015 |
| WARD | None Specific |
| DIRECTOR | Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Reassurance that appropriate scrutiny is being given to security measures at Broadmoor Hospital.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee notes the additional correspondence between the West London Mental Health Trust and the Chairman of the Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Commission concerning the future of the alert sirens;
- 2) That the Committee notes the correspondence to Kevin Jacob from the West London Mental Health Trust in response a press article;
- 3) That the Committee notes further responses in respect of Wokingham schools part of the schools cascade system;
- 4) That the Committee determines whether it wishes to take any further action in respect of the issue.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report updates the Committee on information received since its January meeting.

Background

The Committee has received a number of updates on Broadmoor Hospital since the West London Mental Health Trust originally announced proposals in 2014 to replace a number of the present escape alert sirens at Crowthorne, Sandhurst and Little Sandhurst, but decommission or not repair the other seven existing sirens. A number of Members of the Committee attended a meeting of the Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2014 and undertook a visit to the hospital in November 2014.

Analysis of Issues

- 1) Attached to this report are two letters from Steve Shrubbs, Chief Executive of the West London Mental Health Trust:
 - Letter to Councillor Ian Leake, Chairman of the Bracknell Forest Overview and Scrutiny Commission dated 27 January 2015;
 - Letter to Kevin Jacob, Principal Democratic Services Officer dated 26 February 2015 in response to an enquiry about an *Independent on Sunday* article concerning security at the hospital in 2013 which was published on 15 February 2015.

In his letter to Councillor Ian Leake, Steve Shrubbs indicates that the Trust now propose to “*retain and maintain all community based sirens until the new hospital is completed and the secure perimeter fence is realigned in 2019. From that time all sirens will be decommissioned. However, to ensure consistency with the other two high security hospitals and to provide assurance to the Crowthorne community, propose to install a new siren on the entrance building to the new hospital.*”

The Trust has categorically refuted the *Independent on Sunday* allegation as set out in the attached letter and asked for corrections and an apology from the paper.

- 2) In January 2015 the Committee considered a number of responses from schools regarding when they had last received a test escape alert through the schools telephone cascade system. It was decided to seek additional replies from schools that had not responded by the date of the Committee and to ask the appropriate Officers for a response where a school had indicated that they had not received a telephone test alert.

Four additional responses from schools have been received. Two indicated that they had received test alert calls and two could not confirm that they had. Three of the schools expressed a preference for the continuation of an audible alarm to supplement other systems.

The school cascade system is operated by Forestcare on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Borough Council. A copy of the cascade is attached for information. Forestcare have indicated that when the system was tested on 14 January 2015 it worked effectively with confirmation from the schools at end of the cascade that they had received a test alert call from the previous

school in the cascade.

Forestcare had indicated that discussions are in place to review the cascade and warning system from the hospital and reference to a review is also made in Steve Shrubbs's letter to Councillor Leake.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

| | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1) | £0 | Yes | |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2) | £0 | Yes | |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) | £0 | Yes | |

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

List of Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Agendas from July 2014, November 2014 and January 2015.

Independent on Sunday article 15 February 2015 <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/broadmoor-facing-3m-bill-to-fix-security-flaws-at-highsecurity-psychiatric-hospital-10046786.html>

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