

Subject:	GP Sustainability & Quality: July 2016 Update		
Date of Meeting:	20 July 2016		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance and Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Giles Rossington	Tel: 29-5514
	Email:	Giles.rossington@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has been tracking the issue of GP sustainability and quality for a number of months, most recently via a workshop that brought HOSC members together with NHS England (NHSE) commissioners and representatives of Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

1.2 This update from NHSE and the CCG will be in the form of a presentation and discussion and will focus on the following areas:

- Work taking place to identify GP practices that are vulnerable due to quality issues, financial difficulties, partners nearing retirement age etc.
- Measures being considered to increase the sustainability of city GP services
- Specific comments on: Hove Medical Centre (placed in Special Measures by the Care Quality Commission: CQC); Broadway GP Practice (placed in Special Measures by the CQC); and The Practice Group surgeries (have announced their withdrawal from contracts to run five city GP surgeries).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members note the information provided in the presentation/discussion and consider how to further scrutinise this issue.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The HOSC has been tracking issues of GP quality and sustainability for several years. This is in the context of very variable GP practice performance across the city.

- 3.2 In recent months we have seen increasing pressure on CG services in Brighton & Hove. Events have included the closure of Eaton Place surgery following the retirement of both partners; the closure on quality grounds of Goodwood Court GP Practice at the instruction of the CQC; the announcement by the Practice Group that it is withdrawing from GP provision in the city; and the CQC placing Broadway Surgery and Hove medical Centre into Special Measures.
- 3.3 HOSC members have been concerned about what steps NHSE commissioners and the CCG have been taking to gather intelligence on and offer support to vulnerable GP practices. It seems evident that the steps taken to date have failed to flag up some significant pressures.
- 3.4 The HOSC has also been interested to learn what plans are in place to improve the sustainability of GP services in the city, whether via federation/clustering of practices, a more robust monitoring of performance/quality, co-commissioning of GP services, or some other measure.
- 3.5 Some of these issues were considered a workshop in spring 2016. Members may wish to consider holding further workshops to explore NHS planning in detail.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Members may choose to tackle this issue in a number of ways: e.g. via workshops, a task & finish group, committee reports.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None for this report, although community representatives have been involved of the scrutiny of this issue to date (e.g. via the Healthwatch and CVS co-optees on HOSC).

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider the information to be presented by NHSE and the CCG and to consider if and how this issue should be further scrutinised.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 None to this report – any scrutiny activity would be undertaken within current funding levels.

Legal Implications:

7.2 None to this report for information

Equalities Implications:

7.3 None to this report for information

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None to this report for information

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None to this report for information

