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28 March 2007

Mr Ed Macalister-Smith
Chief Executive – Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

Dear Mr Macalister-Smith

POLICY COMMISSION FOR CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING – ANNUAL HEALTHCHECK

The Policy Commission wishes to make the following comments for inclusion in the annual health check declaration for the Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Core Standard 6 and Core Standard 22

There is a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the Council and PCT. This involves: developing joint commissioning, sharing support functions, jointly owning property, integrate working between health and social care. In addition there is joint post between the council and PCT for Director of Public Health. Therefore the Policy Commission feels that co-operation between the Council and PCT is improving, which should in turn lead to improved outcomes for patients.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) will also be undertaking a study into continuing care, to further improve joint working in this area.

Core Standard 17

The Chair of the Policy Commission has regular meetings with the Chief Executive of the PCT and NHS officers have recently been helpful and willing to attend meetings when invited. The Policy Commission feel that the relationship is positive and that their views are taken into account. For example, there were plans to reconfigure beds on St Mary's Farringford Ward, which caused some public (and PPIF) concern. The NHS and OSC discussed this at a policy commission meeting. Although the OSC understood the reasons for these changes, the meeting gave a public airing to the issue and indeed the plans did not go ahead, perhaps in part due to issues raised by the Patient Forum, public and HOSC Members.

Core Standard 18

The Policy Commission have heard, informally, some concerns that the ICT software used for the 'choose and book' system is not working as it should but that the system itself is working well.

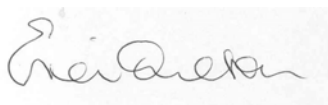
Core Standard 20a

Although the Policy Commission has no comment on the whether the standard is being met or not, it welcomes reassurance from the PCT that the issue previously raised by the Commission (hospital balconies) has been tackled.

Core Standard 23

The targets in the Local Area Agreement on smoking have been met and the Policy Commission are pleased that there is an integrated sexual health team on the Island.

Yours sincerely



Erica Oulton
*Chairman – Policy Commission for Care, Health and Housing
Isle of Wight Council*