1. HOSC - General Information

- **Committee Membership**: 10 County Councillors (voting); 7 Borough/District Councillors (voting); 3 Local Involvement Network (LINk) members (non-voting)
- **HOSC Business Planning Group**: This develops and monitors the HOSC work programme and undertakes research and preliminary examination of issues to decide whether or not they should be included in the HOSC programme of work.
- **Cabinet Member**: Health sits within the Leader of the Council’s portfolio
- **Liaison Members**: HOSC appoints 2 “liaison members” to each of the 8 NHS Trusts covering the area. All the District/Borough Members on HOSC act as Liaison Members (further details of Liaison Members and their role can be provided).

2. Key Objectives and Powers

**Objectives**: To improve the health of people who live in West Sussex, through the County, borough and district councils working together with local NHS bodies to:

- Address health inequality and access to health facilities
- Promote continuous improvement of health and services impacting on health
- Act as a ‘critical friend’ to local NHS bodies

**Powers**: Under the NHS Act 2006, the HOSC has the power to:

- Review/scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of the local authority and make reports to NHS bodies and the authority
- Require officers of local NHS bodies to attend meetings and answer questions
- Set up joint HOSCs with other local authorities to consider cross-boundary issues and delegate powers
- Refer contested proposals for major service changes to the Secretary of State

NHS Trusts have a statutory duty to provide information and consult on any proposed “substantial developments or variations” in the provision of services. There are a few limited exceptions to this duty (e.g. where there’s a risk to the safety or welfare of patients or staff).

3. HOSC Work Programme

HOSC looks at health in its widest sense, not just NHS services. This means that many of the issues reviewed by the Committee are cross-cutting, and may relate to several services, including health, social care and education (e.g. childhood obesity/mental health). Such issues may be covered by working with other Select Committees as appropriate. HOSC also aims to take a strategic overview, however, this can lead to challenges in terms
of how to respond to very local issues relating to health services. Key issues for HOSC to consider include:

- Changes in accessibility to services
- How patients/staff/carers might be affected by any proposals for change
- Methods of service delivery
- Impact on the wider community and other services

HOSC will be carrying out its annual work programme planning (informal) session in February, to develop its programme for 2010/11. Some of the key issues currently under consideration by HOSC are:

- Monitoring outcomes of Fit for the Future process (particularly, review of children’s health services and any developments to maternity services)
- NHS West Sussex Strategic Commissioning Plan (particularly the impact of the current financial situation)
- Foundation Trusts
- Better by Design Mental Health Service Reconfiguration
- Dementia
- Dentistry
- Emergency Admissions

4. Involvement of District/Borough Councils

- All District and Borough Councils are now represented on the HOSC, and have 2 places on the Business Planning Group (currently Lee Gilroy, Crawley and Brian Weekes, Chichester)
- A key role of District and Borough Council representatives on the HOSC is to update their Council on the HOSC work programme/meetings and to update the HOSC on any key issues raised by their Council. This is particularly important for the annual HOSC work programme planning process.

Further Information

HOSC publishes a quarterly newsletter and this, along with other information about health scrutiny, is available at the HOSC website: [http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/your-council/scrutiny-and-select-committees/health-scrutiny/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/your-council/scrutiny-and-select-committees/health-scrutiny/)
NHS Structure in West Sussex

**Strategic Health Authority**
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority
(Covering Sussex, Surrey, Kent & Medway)

**Mental Health Trust**
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
(covers the whole of Sussex)

**Acute Hospital Trusts**
- Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath and Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton)
- Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (East Grinstead)
- Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust (St. Richard’s, Chichester and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals)
- Surrey & Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (East Surrey Hospital, Redhill and some services at Crawley and Horsham Hospitals)

**Ambulance Trust**
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb)
(covers Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Medway)

**NHS West Sussex**
Formerly West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT).
Commissioner of health services for West Sussex

**Community Health Services**
West Sussex Health
(part of South Downs Health NHS Trust)