

News Release

21 July 2005

Consultation begins on the future of services at Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital and Havant War Memorial Hospital

“The future of services at Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital and Havant War Memorial Hospital” the consultation document into the future use of inpatient beds and the minor injuries service at these two hospitals has been launched today by East Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The document looks at the use of inpatient beds and minor injuries services at Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital and Havant War Memorial Hospital and proposes changes to the way these and a range of outpatient services are organised. It also examines how primary and community services could best be reshaped to meet the health needs of local people.

Ann Smith, Director of Operational and Corporate Services, for East Hampshire PCT, said: “We are looking at all the services we provide, to ensure they are cost effective and efficient. One of the areas reviewed is the use of in-patient beds. Overall the beds we provide are not run at maximum efficiency. A proportion of these beds is currently occupied by patients who could have been better cared for elsewhere, e.g. in a nursing home or for many their own home.

“We also face serious financial pressures, last year we had a £5.9million deficit. It makes sense that we look at all the services where we spend our funds. We must also look at providing care in the most efficient and effective way for our residents, whilst making best use of our resources.

“We have, therefore, looked at a range of options to make the best use of our resources in this area. Having looked at the options our proposal is to close Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital’s in-patient beds and minor injuries services, and consolidate in-patient beds for Havant and Emsworth at Havant War Memorial Hospital.”

The PCT is seeking views from a wide range of groups and individuals with an interest in the development of services locally.

The four public meetings to which members of the public are invited to attend are:

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| 10am to 12 noon | Tuesday, 9 August 2005 | Emsworth Community Centre |
| 2pm to 4pm | Thursday, 18 August 2005 | Havant Leisure Centre |
| 7pm to 9pm | Tuesday, 23 August 2005 | Emsworth Community Centre |
| 7pm to 9pm | Monday, 5 September 2005 | Havant Civic Offices |

Refreshments will be available during the meetings.

Copies of the summary leaflet and consultation documents are available by:

via the PCT’s website – www.easthampshirepct.nhs.uk

email on - ems.hav@ports.nhs.uk

writing to – East Hampshire Primary Care Trust
Emsworth/Havant Consultation
FREEPOST (SCE 14828)
Waterlooville
PO7 7BR

or by telephoning – 023 9224 8800

[ends]

NOTES TO EDITOR:

1. The East Hampshire Primary Care Trust covers the whole of Havant Borough and parts of East Hampshire District and Winchester City. It has 107 GPs in 27 GP practices with a registered population of 194,718.
2. Media enquires should be made to Sue Galley, Media & Communications Service, telephone 023 9289 4392.