

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report to Housing & Wellbeing Committee – 4 February 2025

Name of Meeting:	Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 January 2025
Report by:	Cllr Jill Long – The Council’s Nominated Representative

WSCC Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) agenda items covered the following items and updates:

- Responses to recommendations made at recent meetings:
 - Zachary Merton Hospital – HASC thanks Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust for the letter and meeting with the Chairman to update on the situation regarding Zachary Merton.
 - That the Committee ensures it keeps in close contact with the Sussex NHS Foundation Trust to provide regular updates on this matter.
 - To recommend that a conditions survey on other buildings within the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust is undertaken to ensure future issues are dealt with as soon as possible
 - Circulate messages concerning availability of flu vaccinations from Public Health to all members of the committee for wider dissemination
- Dentistry update:
 - Continual lobbying to MPs on dental contract reform as this is the key to unlocking these issues.
 - NHS Sussex to produce data on whether GPs are being presented with patients with dental issues
 - Update requested on Arun locations where golden hellos might help to increase recruitment in March/April 2025
 - For NHS Sussex to provide data on dental emergencies in A&E
 - There is a need to see what more can be done to publicise NHS dentistry places across West Sussex
 - Circulate Healthwatch poll link to HASC members
 - For this item to remain on the committee’s work programme
- Improving access to General Practice in West Sussex:
 - HASC welcomed the report and recognised the positive trajectory since the last report to HASC in November 2022
 - Data showed how primary care presentations being reduced
 - Data to whether people are still having to go to hospitals for emergencies
 - Common themes for improving access have been identified, covering Patient Experience of Contact; Ease of Access and Demand Management; Promoting the use of digital tools; Staff training and skills development; and Accuracy in recording in appointment books. Each theme has a number of actions to address issues as identified.

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- Practice level data to be presented in clearer form
- Pharmacy to be kept on Business Planning Group agenda.
- Questions relating to sexual health services for Public Health to provide a response (Worthing).
- For NHS Sussex to meet with Healthwatch to learn more about survey
- Remains on work programme, with at least an annual review
- HASC Work Programme:
 - Relationship between social prescribing and GP surgeries, to be considered at BPG
 - Mental health services, to consider at BPG for an item in March
 - BPG– future review of adult social care

The next meeting of HASC will be held on 5th March 2025, probable agenda items include:

- Q3 (December 2024) Performance and Resources report
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust Improvement Journey update

Papers for the HASC meetings can be found at [Browse meetings - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee](#)