

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

27 January 2006

**UPDATE ON RE-ORGANISATION OF POLICE AND HEALTH SERVICES IN
HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

Report by the Director

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executives' Group be asked to continue work to ensure the best possible joint working between the Health Service and Local Government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight under the new arrangements.

1. At the last meeting, Members approved representations to Government asking for a rethink on the various subregional public sector re-organisations which are threatening local partnership working. This paper updates members on the current state of play with re-organisations in the Police and Health Services.

POLICE

2. Every police authority and force in England and Wales has been directed by the Home Secretary to look at the creation of "strategic police forces" in order to improve nationally the delivery of protective services. This follows the publication of the Home Office report - "Closing the Gap - A Review of the fitness for purpose of the current structure of policing in England and Wales" which examined whether the present police structure is able to meet the challenges posed by the current and future policing needs.
3. Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Constabulary submitted a joint proposal to the Home Office on 28 October outlining the options it felt were most viable for the future of policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The three options recommended were:
 - ! Hampshire to stand alone as a strategic force
 - ! Hampshire to merge with Dorset and Wiltshire
 - ! Hampshire to merge with Dorset.
4. The Home Office feedback said that looking outside the South East region was not an option. The report back also said that currently the Home Office does not feel that there was strong evidence that Hampshire could stand alone as a strategic force because it does not meet the criteria of 4,000 officers - even though it is one of the country's largest forces with 3,803 officers and is looking to take on more than 500 new Police Community Support Officers over the next few years taking it over the 4,000 benchmark.
5. The Home Office has directed police authorities and forces in the South East to look further at five options:

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|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Two strategic forces | Kent, Surrey and Sussex
Thames Valley and Hampshire |
| 2. | Three strategic forces | Kent
Thames Valley
Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire |
| 3. | Three strategic forces | Kent, Surrey and Sussex
Thames Valley
Hampshire (stand-alone) |
| 4. | Three strategic forces | Kent and Sussex
Thames Valley
Hampshire and Surrey |
| 5. | Four strategic forces | Kent
Thames Valley
Surrey and Sussex
Hampshire (stand-alone) |
6. This Association expressed its very strong preference for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to develop as a single strategic force. Following extensive consultation, including the Chief Constable's attendance at the November meeting this Association, Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Constabulary have decided to focus on two options identified as those that will best serve the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight:
- ! Preferred option - Hampshire standing alone as a strategic force
 - ! If Hampshire has to merge - Hampshire merging with Dorset and Wiltshire.

HEALTH

7. The Strategic Health Authority is currently consulting on the future Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trust (PCT) arrangements for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. For PCTs the following are proposed:
- ! a Primary Care Trust for Portsmouth City
 - ! a Primary Care Trust for Southampton City
 - ! Two options for the county of Hampshire
 - Option A: a single Primary Care Trust coterminous with Hampshire County Council that will comprise the seven existing Primary Care Trusts
 - Option B: three Primary Care Trusts within Hampshire County Council replacing the existing seven Primary Care Trusts
 - ! In view of the special circumstances of the Isle of Wight, it is proposed to create a single organisation for the commissioning and management of all National Health Services on the Isle of Wight. The proposed new body will oversee the commissioning and management of acute hospital services, mental health services, community services, primary care services and ambulance services.

8. Comments to the Strategic Health Authority are invited by 22 March and the new arrangements for PCTs are likely to be put in place later this year.
9. The Unitary and County Councils have been consulted in some detail. The Chairman of the HIOW Strategic Health Authority attended our September meeting to discuss the proposed changes. Then the Chief Executive of the Strategic Health Authority ran a seminar for all Hampshire local authorities on 5 October at The Castle. This led to a series of workshops (reported at the last HIOW Association meeting) now being held to ensure the closest possible joint working between health and local government under any future PCT arrangement for Hampshire.
10. These workshops are looking at joint working in public health, social care for adults and children, joint commissioning and provision in the re-organised Health Service. The workshops particularly address the two-tier area of Hampshire and a report on the first one is given in the Annex.
11. Rather than comment on the two options for PCTs in Hampshire, the Association is concentrating on protecting future joint working.

NICK GOULDER
Director

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Annex: 1

Contact: Nick Goulder - 023 8068 8431, E-mail hiow@eastleigh.gov.uk

Update on reorganisation of police and health in Hants and IoW/reports