



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
24 JANUARY 2006**

Report of the Social Care and Health Commission

**Consultation on new primary care trust arrangements in Trent:
Ensuring a patient-led NHS**

RECOMMENDATION

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| 1. | The Committee is requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) to consider the report of the Social Care and Health Commission, and:b) to nominate a member or members to give evidence to the Social Care and Health Commission's review of the restructure of the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in Derbyshire |
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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| 2.1 | At a meeting on 5 January 2006, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Social Care and Health Commission agreed in principle to the request of the Chief Executive of Derby City Council that the Commission should carry out a review of the proposals for the reorganisation of Derbyshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). |
| 2.2 | The overview document in Appendix 2 of this report provides some background to the PCT consultation and explains the need for the Commission's review. |
| 2.3 | The Committee is asked whether it wishes to nominate a member or members to give evidence on behalf of the Committee to the Social Care and Health Commission's review. |

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Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 - Consultation on new primary care trust arrangements in Trent

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. The PCT structure has the potential to impact on all Derby people.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities:

Objectives:

- A prosperous successful and vibrant economy

Values

- Develop effective partnerships with all stakeholders, especially Derby's residents
- Adopt new ways of working wherever these will help us do things better and provide value for money, customer focussed services

Priorities

- Improving customer service in the city centre and locally

Reorganisation of the Derbyshire Primary Care Trusts

At present Derbyshire has eight Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and two of these cover Derby. The PCTs consist of a Chief Executive and a Board of between eight and ten members.

The PCTs work with the Derbyshire local authorities and other agencies that provide local health and social care to make sure that the needs of Derbyshire residents are being met.

The job of the PCTs is to manage the services provided by the people, such as your doctor, dentist, optician and pharmacist, that you see when you first have a health problem. The PCTs manage the NHS Walk-in centres and the NHS Direct phone line service, and they are also responsible for making sure that health and social care systems work together for the benefit of patients.

PCTs are at the centre of the National Health Service (NHS) and will get 75% of the NHS budget. Being local organisations PCTs are in the best position to understand the needs of the communities that they serve and to make sure that the health and social care providers work effectively. To do this they must make sure that there is sufficient service capacity to meet the needs of their communities and that those services are easily accessible.

In developing its proposals for improving the NHS, the Department of Health has recognised the need for stronger PCTs that are able to design, plan and develop better services for patients, which can work more closely with local government, and that can support good general practice. In order to achieve these objectives the Department of Health has asked the Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) to put forward proposals for restructuring the PCTs within their areas. The objective of this restructuring is to reduce the administrative burden and thereby release funding that can be used to improve services to patients. It has been estimated that the overall saving of the restructuring for the Trent SHA which covers Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire will be in the order of £13 million.

Trent SHA has responded to the Department of Health's request by asking PCT Chief Executives to work with their partner organisations and wider stakeholders to identify the best way of reconfiguring the PCTs and to develop options that it could consider. As a result of this exercise the Derbyshire PCTs have put forward two main options. These are to reduce the eight existing Derbyshire PCTs to either:

1. A single PCT that covers the whole of Derbyshire, including the city of Derby, or;

2. Two PCTs, one covering the city of Derby, and the other the rest of Derbyshire.

Both the City and the County Councils are in favour of the second option as they consider that this would allow for a better focus of health care and would best serve the very different requirements of Derby and Derbyshire residents.

The PCTs on the other hand, favour the first option. The advantages and disadvantages of the two options are set out in a document entitled 'Consultation on new primary care trust arrangements in Trent: Ensuring a patient-led NHS'. This document, which has been prepared by the Trent SHA, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.tsha.nhs.uk/consultations/pct-consultation>.

A nationwide consultation on the proposals to establish the new PCTs in England has now commenced and will finish on 22 March 2006. As part of that consultation the City Council's Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Commission will be conducting a review of the PCT's proposals, and as part of the review we are seeking the views and comments of Derby people on what is being proposed.

DRR 9 January 2006.