

**Contact:**

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**Your Ref:**

**Our Ref:** CS/EC

**Date:**

2nd October 2014

Dr M Patel and Mrs S Braysher  
Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG  
Lower Ground Floor  
Crawley Hospital  
West Green Drive  
Crawley  
West Sussex

RH11 7DH

Dear Dr Patel and Mrs Braysher,

**Mid Sussex District Council response to the 5 Communities Plan – Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG Strategic Service Development Plan**

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) would like to thank you for presenting the 5 Communities Plan to its members and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Horsham and Mid Sussex Strategic Service Development Plan.

Following the presentation we have given our Members an additional opportunity to comment on the document and they have raised the issues set out in Appendix 1. Although they may fall outside of the remit of the consultation on the 5 Communities Plan we believe that they are important issues for the future of health provision in Mid Sussex.

MSDC supports the overarching aims of the plan to;

- Promote health and wellbeing, improve lifestyles and support people to take responsibility for their own health.
- Ensure that as many safe, high quality and affordable health services are provided as close to home as possible
- Ensure that services have the capacity to deal with the growing populations taking into consideration plans for housing expansion as well as the characteristics of our communities.
- Support and develop primary care particularly for our rural communities
- Make the best use of existing NHS buildings
- Ensure the financial sustainability of our NHS for the long term
- Engage with local patients, public and partners

The Council is fully supportive of the aim to improve lifestyles and to support people to take greater responsibility for their own health. The Council believes that there is greater scope for collaborative working with the CCG with the Wellbeing Hub and other District Council services. The Council, through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, would be interested in exploring the possibility of providing outreach services within redeveloped and new primary care settings.

*Working together for a better Mid Sussex*

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The Council fully appreciates the rationale that GP practices need to be fit for purpose and that the best use is made of NHS buildings. However, any proposals must not result in a reduction in capacity or diminished accessibility. The residents of Mid Sussex should be able to have access to a range of high quality health care in venues which are accessible in terms of both their locations (taking in to account transport links and car parking) and the physical condition and layout of the building. The Council wishes to stress that residents of Mid Sussex will be very concerned about any changes to health care provision and it is vital that they are fully engaged in the process and that measures are put in place to support access to new services.

The Council supports the principle of bringing hospital based services into the community to enable our residents to access as much care locally as possible, particularly in Burgess Hill where there is a lack of community hospital services.

The Council understands that a number of services currently provided within the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) and the Queen Victoria Hospital (QVH) can be provided in community settings and broadly the Council supports this. However, we would appreciate assurance that should these services be relocated the future viability of the hospitals will not be put at risk. Although the document advocates the community settings approach (paragraph 211) it states that 'the CCG may also wish the BSUHT to consider whether services currently located in the community could be integrated into the PRH site'. The Council would welcome clarification of this statement.

The Council welcomes the proposal to provide outreach chemotherapy services within the PRH. (Paragraph 197)

We note the proposal to locate the urology services at Park View and Crawley Down surgeries. However, as indicated in the plan, Crawley Down surgery is constrained in relation to car parking and any decision to expand services could exacerbate this problem. (Paragraph 206)

The Council welcomes the use of the Better Care Fund to develop the integration of care through the Proactive Care Programme and the proposed Tailored Health Coaching Service providing a targeted approach to managing long term conditions. The Council can see great opportunities for the two services to work closely with the Wellbeing Hub and other Council services such as housing and benefits in the future. (Paragraph 216) The Council is however mindful that as the Better Care Fund is not additional money this new approach could further jeopardise the future financial viability of the PRH and the QVH.

The Council would like to be kept fully informed on the development of a model for integrated stroke provision across Sussex and the review of neurology services. Although the Council supports the proposal to establish a centre for inpatient stroke rehabilitation in Mid Sussex we seek assurances that our residents would be able to continue to access acute stroke services at a local hospital and not have to travel across Sussex to be treated. (Paragraphs 221 and 222)

With regards to mental health services the Council considers that there should be greater access for Mid Sussex residents to the Time to Talk service for which there are currently significant waiting times. There is also a need for improved access to mental health services for young people who do not currently meet the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service eligibility criteria. (Paragraph 226)

The Council is seeking assurance that there will be equity between Horsham and Crawley in the provision of an integrated service model between general children and family services and specialist mental health provision and it strongly supports the argument that there should be a similar integrated service for the population of Mid Sussex. (Paragraph 240)

The Council welcomes the reassurance that the once vulnerable maternity unit at PRH has a more secure future with the proposed development of a consultant led unit. (Paragraph 247)

There is under provision of sexual health services in Mid Sussex which the Council would have expected the plan to address.

The Council supports the proposal to make PRH a hub for MSK services and the corresponding spoke proposals. The Council would like to keep fully informed of the outcomes from this new service delivery approach and on the plans for further integration of dermatology, cardio – respiratory and diabetes care services based on the MSK model. The Council broadly supports the hub and spoke model proposed in the plan, however, we would welcome further clarification of the hub locations going forward. (Paragraph 200). The Council urges the CCG to ensure that the locations for the hubs and spokes are assessed in terms of accessibility for our residents, especially the more vulnerable.

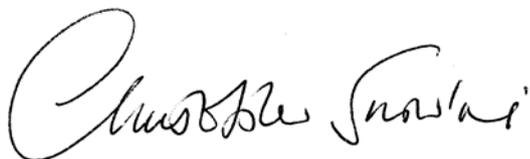
Due to the geographical location of Haywards Heath the Council understands the rationale for regarding Haywards Heath as the major centre for community and primary care facilities. However it is important that there is access to all services for residents across the whole of Mid Sussex including those who live in rural areas which are less well served by public transport.

Whilst the Council welcomes the proposals to provide additional primary care facilities at Burgess Hill. (Paragraph 277) there are a number of options presented in the document regarding the locality specific estates. The Council would like the CCG to ensure that access to locations (including public transport and car parking) by the most vulnerable residents in Mid Sussex is considered when assessing each of these options.

In summary the Council acknowledges the challenges facing the CCG to deliver the best options for our local communities and welcomes the benefits that the plan will bring in terms of the potential to expand the range of services and to deliver them locally.

We look forward to discussing the proposals in more detail as your plans develop and would assert the need for assurance and further engagement opportunities to be provided to local residents before any decisions are made. We do stress that Members reflect the concerns of their residents about issues wider than those covered by the present consultation. Residents, entirely reasonably, do not view the provision of primary care as being the responsibility of separate bodies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Snowling', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Christopher Snowling  
Cabinet Member for Health & Community

## Appendix 1

### Additional comments from MSDC Members

Members are concerned about the lack of GP surgeries in areas of Mid Sussex which are experiencing significant housing growth. The Council is in a difficult position as NHS England states, in response to consultation on plans for housing development, that there is adequate primary care provision in Mid Sussex. This restricts the Council's Planning Committees' ability to ensure adequate provision of land for primary care as part of such developments. The Council seeks the CCG's advice as to how to approach this issue with NHS England in order to ensure that there are sufficient GPs in the right locations to serve our residents.

Particular reference has been made to the Forge Wood development and housing expansion in Copthorne. The area is currently served by the Pound Hill GP Practice through a satellite surgery in the Village. However, it has been reported that the Pound Hill Practice has stated that, in order to accommodate the demand from the Forge Wood development, it would need to relinquish its patients who live in Copthorne. As you will appreciate, this is causing considerable concern and it is requested that the Council be kept fully informed about the provision of services for residents of Copthorne, to ensure that they do not 'fall through the gap' between Crawley and Mid Sussex practices.

Additional concern has been expressed regarding access to a GP surgery for elderly residents living in Turners Hill Park. Turners Hill Park no longer has a bus service to Crawley Down, which makes access to the surgery very difficult for the local residents

Members have also raised the issue of long waiting times to get an appointment with a GP and draw attention to the real difficulties in making an appointment to see their preferred/ 'own' GP.