

Your views can be heard

You can make your voice heard in the National Health Service – through the Community Health Council.

The Community Health Council is an independent body within the NHS, set up by Parliament to look after your interests – as users of health services, as patients, as carers, as concerned individuals.

If you are among the 551,000 people living in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, the Community Health Council can put your views to the authorities that pay for and operate health services locally.

That way, you can help improve services and make them more responsive to local needs.

PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

How to contact us...

Write to:

Portsmouth and South-East Hampshire
Community Health Council,
2nd Floor, Admiral House,
High Street, Cosham,
Portsmouth PO6 3BZ.

Or telephone: 023 9238 3832

(Office hours: 10am-3pm, Monday-Friday.
24-hour telephone answering service.)



Chief Officer:

Mrs Margaret E Lovell

PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

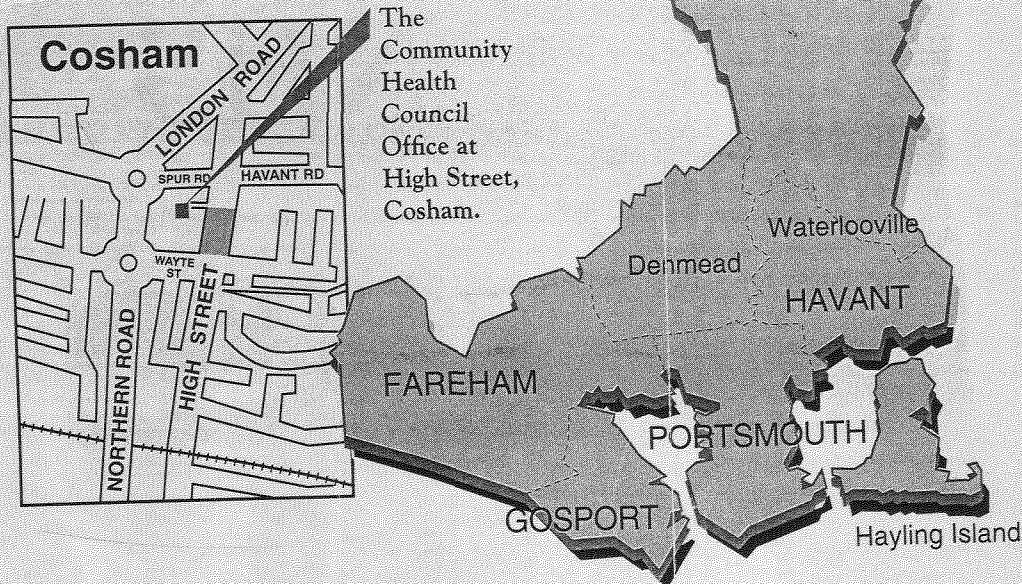


*Your
voice
in the
NHS*

PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

The district covered by the Community Health Council includes the local council areas of:

- Portsmouth
- Havant
- Fareham
- Gosport
- East Hampshire (parishes of Buriton, Clanfield, Colemore and Priors Dean, East Meon, Froxfield, Greatham, Hawkley, Langrish, Liss, Petersfield, Rowlands Castle and Steep)
- Winchester (parishes of Boarhunt, Southwick and Denmead).



What is the Community Health Council?

Community Health Councils (CHCs) were formed in 1974 to represent the interests of local populations in NHS matters – put simply, they are independent NHS watchdogs.

What can the COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL do for you?

The Community Health Council has rights that it can exercise on your behalf

- It can obtain information about services.
- It can visit hospitals, clinics and other units.
- It can send an observer to meetings of the local Health Authority and Trusts.
- It is consulted about the purchasing of health care for the local population.
- If it disagrees with proposals for major changes, it can lodge an objection with the Secretary of State for Health .

The Community Health Council sets up small working groups to examine particular health issues in depth. It reports its findings and recommendations to the Health Authority and NHS Trusts, and takes part in talks aimed at bringing changes into effect.

If you have a view about the quality or effectiveness of local health services, or a suggestion for improving them, tell the Community Health Council. Write to the address on the back of this leaflet or telephone the number shown there.