

Adur, Arun and Worthing

Teaching Primary Care Trust

Our Ref: SP/cg/1128

21 March 2006

to: All Directors,
All Non Exec Directors,
PEC Members,
All Staff, All Practice Managers

The Causeway
Goring-by-Sea
Worthing
West Sussex
BN12 6BT

Tel: 01903 708659
Fax: 01903 247998
E: mail: chiefexec@aaw.nhs.uk
Website: www.healthinaaw.nhs.uk

Dear Colleague

New hospital on Hold

On Friday, 17 March, it was decided to delay the development of the new community hospital to be built at Littlehampton.

As many of you will be aware, the new Arun Community Hospital has been in development for over four years. However, we have agreed with Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority to delay approval of the scheme until the autumn. The SHA met last week to consider final approval for the scheme.

We can understand the reasons for the SHA's position; although our PCT isn't in debt, the wider NHS is in a serious financial position as are our local partners at Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust. If we are to tackle this very difficult situation we must review all plans and developments.

The good news is that all the detailed planning has been completed and once we're given the green light, the scheme will be ready to go.

Your colleagues here at the PCT headquarters are understandably disappointed with the delay. In the meantime, Zachary Merton Hospital will continue to provide local services as usual.

I will let you know any further news as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Steve Phoenix
Chief Executive



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Chairman: David Taylor *Chief Executive:* Steve Phoenix

