

Service integration shake-up

CANCER services for Islanders should undergo a radical programme of integration, according to a health watchdog.

In its report, Healthwatch IW called for changes to the service to make sure patients were receiving treatment at the most accessible hospital. Healthwatch IW also said a charter was needed to set out what patients had a right to expect from providers.

The proposed charter would be devised by the IW Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England and would be adopted by St Mary's Hospital and mainland hospitals.

The charter would look at the scheduling

of appointments and treatments, arrangements for admission and discharge and would assess the practicality of timings.

The report said some IW patients were given 7am appointments on the mainland, meaning they had to catch the ferry at 5.10am.

The watchdog said patients should have a say on the charter and this could be done through recognised peer support groups.

Anne Snow, lead cancer nurse for the IW NHS Trust, said: "We welcome the report from Healthwatch IW and have worked on an action plan with the IW Clinical Commissioning Group to address the recommendations made in the report."