

HOSC/08/17

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 8 February 2017

Report by Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer

Contact details: graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk Tel: 03301 34574

Mental Health – merger of Trusts and strategic oversight

North Essex Partnership Foundation Trust and South Essex Partnership Trust, and Lead Commissioners for north and south Essex, have been requested to attend the 8th February 2017 meeting of the Committee to discuss current performance issues and preparations for the proposed merger of the two providers.

The following reports are attached:

1. North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (as Lead Commissioner for adult mental health services in north Essex); **Appendix A**
2. Castle Point and Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group (as Lead Commissioner for adult mental health services in south Essex); **Appendix B**
3. Joint provider report from North Essex Partnership Foundation Trust and South Essex Partnership Trust. **Appendix C**

Advance questions (derived from a private HOSC session) were submitted to the Lead Commissioners and the providers to provide answers for inclusion in their respective reports. Those questions were as follows:

Lead Commissioners:

1. How do you determine the KPIs you use to monitor Provider performance and help to improve patient experience? Do you still think they are appropriate?
2. What measures are you asking Providers to have in place to ensure timely assessments? Please confirm current waiting times and do you think current waiting times for assessments are satisfactory at present?
3. What measures are you asking Providers to have in place to ensure timely access to talking therapies? Please confirm current waiting times and do you think current waiting times are satisfactory at present?
4. What is Plan B if the merger does not go ahead? What contingency planning at a system level is in place?

Cont 1/2....

Cont 2/2...

Providers:

1. There should be a brief update on current merger status and provisional timetable together with planned engagement with stakeholders.
2. What actions are you taking before and during the merger process to ensure that service performance is protected and that patient experience is not sacrificed?
3. Please outline actions you are taking to improve patient access to services after the merger is in place.
4. Will differences in service quality and access across the county be 'ironed-out' post-merger i.e a common service offer? If so, how?
5. How will you ensure good social care is also offered for MH patients after the merger, particularly bearing in mind the different staff structures at NEPFT and SEPT at the moment?
6. Please indicate how you are implementing NICE Guidance on Self-Harm.

Action required:

The Committee is asked to consider the information provided by the Lead Commissioners and providers in response to the advance questions submitted to them by the HOSC and to seek further assurance on arrangements for the merger and actions to improve performance.