

A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance

Reference Number: HOPSC/05/20

Report title: A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance - updates	
Report to: Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 5 February 2020	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee last considered these issues in July 2019 and requested an update in a further six months' time.

2. Action required

- 2.1 To consider the appendices attached comprising reports received from the East of England Ambulance Service, hospital acute trusts in Essex, and Essex County Council and identify any issues arising and follow-up scrutiny work.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 24 July 2019 the HOSC discussed A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance. The discussion had been pitched more at an operational level and involved representatives from the East of England Ambulance Service, hospital acute trusts in Essex, and Essex County Council as social care commissioner and provider. Members requested that this format be repeated for the next update. A link to the agenda papers for the July 2019 meeting and the minutes of that discussion is here - [HOSC meeting papers - 24 July 2019](#)
- 3.2 The Chairman and Lead Members have agreed a scope which has been circulated in advance to the East of England Ambulance Service, hospital acute trusts in Essex, and Essex County Council and they have been asked to respond to the information requested as laid out below in their report.

Lines of enquiry:

To understand the pressures faced in A&E and emergency departments during the winter of 2019/20;
To assess the success of the advance planning undertaken and lessons learnt.
To assess the extent of partnership working in continuing to address pressures (including admission avoidance).
To understand if the pressures are no longer specific to winter and any need for

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contingency planning at other times of the year.

Information requested:

Review of the advance winter planning, predicted demand and expectations and what actually happened.

What worked well and what did not.

Provide examples of partnership working

Describe any admission avoidance work being undertaken with and without partners [we will have someone from ECC at the meeting so will also hear what work the county council is doing on this].

Describe the discharge planning/process undertaken and what still are the key challenges with this.

Provide information on reasons for Delayed Transfers of Care (to include a breakdown of non-social care delays as well as those attributable to social care) and indicate any trends.

Provide information on the numbers of inappropriate A&E presentations with a breakdown of how many are delivered by ambulance and indicate any trends.

Provide information on re-admissions – how classified and calculated and indicate any trends.

Provide commentary on to what extent are pressures no longer just seen in winter – or are there different pressures.

Any significant change in recruitment and vacancy rates/issues in A&E and Emergency Care since the November HOSC discussion and the success of actions being taken to address shortfalls and skill mix.

4. Update and Next Steps

Updates have been requested from each of the East of England Ambulance Service, the Essex hospital acute trusts and Essex County Council as social care commissioner/provider. These each comprise an appendix to this report.

5. List of Appendices

Updates from each of the three STP footprints have been requested and are attached as Appendices overleaf in the following alphabetical order:

- A. Essex County Council as commissioner and provider of social care
- B. East Suffolk and North Essex Hospital Foundation Trust [TO FOLLOW]
- C. Mid and South Essex Hospitals Group incorporating Basildon, Broomfield and Southend Hospitals).
- D. Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow).
- E. East of England Ambulance Service [TO FOLLOW]

Further reading:

NHS England news announcement - NHS announces rapid response teams – 23 January 2020 [Link to Rapid response teams announcement](#)
Nuffield Trust – Is it becoming Winter All Year Round for the NHS – October 2019 - [Link to Nuffield Trust article](#)>