

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,  
held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 2 March  
2023 at 10:30am**

---

**Present**

Cllr Jeff Henry (chairman)

Cllr Anthony McQuiggan

Cllr Paul Gadd

Cllr Richard Moore

Cllr Dave Harris (vice-chairman)

Cllr Clive Souter (vice-chairman)

Cllr Jaymey McIvor

Cllr Mike Steptoe

**Apologies**

Cllr David Carter (co-opted)

Cllr Carlie Mayes (co-opted)

Cllr Martin Foley

Cllr Stephen Robinson

**Remote Attendees**

Cllr Lynda McWilliams (Co-opted)

Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez (HWE)

---

The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Membership, apologies and declarations**

Apologies were received from Councillors Carter, Foley, Mayes and Robinson.

Cllr Henry declared that he is a member on the council of governors for the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 January 2023 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

Cllr Gadd queries whether the draft strategies from EPUT have been shared with the committee, as set out in the Matters Arising. An update from officers will be sought.

The committee agreed that the Autumn booster vaccination programme can be removed from the Matters Arising report.

**3. Questions from the public**

No questions from the public were received.

**4. Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Jonathan Dunk, Chief Commercial Officer
- Fiona Ryan, Managing Director

The committee received the following update and responses to their questions:

- Challenges currently being faced by MSE are in the urgent and emergency pathway care
- There have been mobilisation challenges since 2014 running two systems
- Equipment is becoming dated and old and having a single point of access is a better option for patients
- Have seen a significant increase in demand and are working on improving ambulance turnaround times
- In January, ambulance handover times have improved by over 25%. Trust wide improvement is over 40%
- Accident and Emergency departments are congested
- Data is providing assurance that MSE are working to reduce waiting lists and patients being referred to them for treatment
- Current commercial contracts end in 2024 and have been looking at different options – the insource and outsource model
- Agreed on that a fully outsourced model is the preferred way forward and are currently with stakeholders around this
- Formal procurement process will be undertaken with a view to bringing this model in from October 2024
- Community diagnostic centres (CDC) need to develop both nationally and locally, and are working with ICB's about what this could mean locally
- The aim is to have a series of CDCs across the locality and are currently going through the business case process with NHS England
- Approval has been obtained for a CDC at Thurrock and Braintree and in the final stages of approval for a CDC in Pitsea.

## **5. Service Harmonisation – Mid and South Essex**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Claire Hankey, Director of Communications and Engagement, Mid & South Essex ICS

The committee received the following update and responses to their questions:

- Undertook consultation before Christmas to bring together six services that had been offered in each CCG area previously
- Looking to bring them together to ensure there is a common offer across Mid and South Essex
- There was no provision for tertiary services across Mid and South Essex when CCGs were in place
- 210 people responded to the online survey which was disappointingly low. There were also focus groups
- Majority were in support of the proposals
- Other ICSs had already harmonised their services prior to them forming

- Main theme of those that did not agree with the proposals was that these procedures should not be funded from the NHS

**6. Maternity Services at East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust (ESNEFT)**

To be received as a written report.

**7. Chairman's Report – March 2023**

Members noted the report.

**8. Member Updates**

Members noted the report.

**9. Future Meeting Dates**

The committee approved the meeting dates for the 2023/24 municipal year.

The committee's May meeting to be cancelled due it clashes with local elections.

The committee have expressed an interest at visiting Southend Hospital and officers will pursue this.

**10. Work Programme – March 2023**

The committee noted the current work programme.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 April 2023 at 10:30am in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

**12. Urgent Business**

No urgent business has been received.

**13. Urgent Exempt Business**

No urgent exempt business has been received.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

**Chairman**