

HOSC/37/11

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 2 November 2011

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL HEALTH CHAIRS FORUM

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The Forum (which comprises the Chairs of the 11 HOSCs in the region) met on 21 October 2011. As usual, Essex was the host authority and the meeting was chaired by Councillor Butland.

The main items discussed were as follows:-

National legislation update

The Forum discussed the implications of the recent changes establishing four SHA clusters across the country. The East of England has combined with the East Midlands and West Midlands SHAs, although much work will continue to be done in the three component parts for the time being.

The Forum also noted the proposals for merging the activities of Specialist Commissioning Groups.

Haemato-Oncology Pathology Services

The Forum received a presentation from the Anglia Cancer Network on proposals to bring about a single provider for processing blood and tissue samples. Similar proposals are likely to be forthcoming from the Essex and Mount Vernon Networks shortly. These proposals do not directly affect patients or their treatment pathways.

The Forum welcomed the changes and asked to be kept up to date with developments.

Liver Colorectal Cancers

It was agreed to set up a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) to consider proposals to restructure this service provision within the Anglia Cancer Network area. The JOSC will be led by the Suffolk HOSC. Essex is NOT involved, as it comes under different Cancer Networks.

Elective and Emergency Vascular Surgery

It was agreed that these proposals should be determined locally rather than regionally. One proposal affecting part of the county is included as agenda item 8.

Neo natal services

(Councillor Butland declared a personal interest in this matter given his involvement with the East Anglian Children's Hospice.)

Updates on the proposals in (a) Essex, Southend and Thurrock; and (b) Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, were given by the Specialist Commissioning Group.

The next Forum meeting will be held in February/March 2012. Items on the agenda will include (a) discussions with the East of England Ambulance Service; (b) the transfer of public health responsibilities to local authorities; and (c) updates from each HOSC on the development of Health and Well Being Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Healthwatch in their area.
