

**Minutes of the meeting of the joint Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 3 November 2022 at 10:30am**

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**Present**

Cllr Jeff Henry (chairman)	Cllr June Lumley
Cllr Susan Barker	Cllr Carlie Mayes (co-opted)
Cllr David Carter (co-opted)	Cllr Jaymey McIvor
Cllr Paul Gadd	Cllr Anthony McQuiggan
Cllr Marie Goldman	Cllr Clive Souter (vice-chairman)
Cllr Ian Grundy (substitute)	Cllr Mark Stephenson (substitute)
Cllr Dave Harris (vice-chairman)	Cllr Mike Steptoe

**Apologies**

Cllr Martin Foley	Cllr Lynda McWilliams (Co-opted))
Cllr Bob Massey	Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez (Healthwatch Essex)

**Remote Attendees**

Cllr Lynette Bowers-Flint	Cllr Peter May
Cllr Martin Foley	Cllr Aidan McGurran
Cllr Carlo Guglielmi	Cllr Lynda McWilliams (Co-opted)
Cllr Bob Massey	Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez (Healthwatch Essex)

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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 Foley, Massey, McWilliams and Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez.

Councillor Stephenson substituted for Councillor Foley and Councillor Grundy substituted for Councillor Massey.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 October 2022 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Members asked for the items showing for March 2022 in the Matters Arising report be removed from the report.

### **3. Questions from the public**

No questions from members of the public were received.

### **4. A&E Pressures, Seasonal Planning and Admission Avoidance**

The Chairman welcomed the following to the meeting:

- Alison Stace, East Suffolk and North East Essex NHS Foundation Trust
- Elizabeth Podd, Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust
- Tiffany Hemming, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
- Alan Whitehead, East of England Ambulance Service
- Jon Dickinson, Essex County Council.

The committee received the following presentation from ESNEFT:

- Message to the public is to keep using ESNEFT service despite current pressures it is under
- Their winter plan was signed off in July 2022
- Investing over £7m to secure winter plan over the winter period
- Recruited over 170 FTE, mainly within medical nursing
- 35 out of over 100 schemes have been approved which are designed to provide ways of managing through the winter period. 12 of the schemes were to provide additional bed capacity and 9 were to support patient safety
- Have created a virtual ward which enables ESNEFT to look after patients at home via an app
- Senior Nurse at Colchester Hospital working on wards to facilitate different discharge arrangements for patients
- The integrated urgent care response service comprises of Occupational Therapists, social prescribers etc
- New cleric service which was launched in November 2022 takes lower priority patients who contacts ambulance service and are dealt with in a different way
- Have seen a marked reduction from people attending via ambulance – only 60 – 70 currently
- ESNEFT are in constant dialogue with the ambulance service day to day, and working with social services and community teams, residential homes and nursing homes to provide bridging beds to enable patients to move out of hospital.

The committee received the following presentation from PAH:

- Expecting a difficult winter, combined with still being in major incident recovery from Covid
- Winter plan was formulated in July 2022
- Have been asked to create an additional 45 – 50 beds. They have already identified Nightingale wards and an older person's unit
- Currently working with the ICS to create virtual wards
- Implemented electronic health record across A&E and urgent care services called Nervecentre, which has helped improve the safety of patients

- Currently working capacity demand and have created more same day treatment capacity and urgent treatment capacity
- Walk in patients are more than 50% of attendees
- Improvement in discharge services (#handoverathome).

The committee received the following presentation from MSE:

- Winter pressures start in October and have put together a package of measures that they have been asked to do, on top of measures that are right to do
- Working on flow through the healthcare system and ambulance turnaround times, making sure only ambulances that are sent to hospitals are needed to be
- UCRT can deal with patients that keeps ambulance more available
- Have been given just under £8m from NHS England, which is being spent on beds, both actual and virtual
- Increased the size of the bridging service and are expanding virtual wards
- Working with alliances on transfer of care hubs
- Introducing self-co-horting
- Elective procedures are not being impacted by current winter pressures.
- Going at risk with some services in expectation of receiving £500m funding from government. Essex should receive around £12m.

The committee received the following presentation from EEAST:

- Introducing rapid release
- Response times for C1 incidents is currently 10 minutes 56 seconds and C2 incidents are 1 hour and 30 minutes
- High number of staff are leaving EEAST and going to other parts of the NHS
- Looking to recruit allied health professionals, with the first batch starting early January 2023
- Average delay on 49 minutes for hospital handovers currently
- Pressure on the service has remained since Covid and are expecting increase in flu and a further wave of Covid this winter
- Additional resource has been bought in such as private ambulances and HALO's
- UCRT will have access to ambulance services stacks (backlog) to help alleviate waiting times
- Making good progress on CQC inspection recommendations
- Sickness levels around 10% currently which is fairly high
- Looking at mitigating the impact of any potential industrial action
- Wellbeing of staff is important and take a temperature check on morale. Includes video broadcast once a month to vent
- Wellbeing vehicle delivers food and drink to crews who have been waiting at long handovers
- Demand normally falls when industrial action is planned.

The committee received the following presentation from Adult Social Care, Essex County Council:

- Partnership with alliances have really improved over the past couple of years

- Focussing on reablement and independence which keeps people out of hospitals
- Working on building up the virtual ward space and getting people back to their basic baselines
- People returning to care sector or asking for extra shifts to help them deal with the cost-of-living crisis
- Undertaking fair cost of care exercise – asking providers to work out figures and then look at what grants are available to bridge the gap
- Monitoring the level of overtime being claimed
- Challenged with staffing and are holding a lot of vacancies at the moment
- All are working closely with the voluntary sector and other organisations to reach out to vulnerable people before their situation deteriorates.

Members received the following further information:

- Solutions are in place to make sure people do not present at hospital
- There are GP based at hospitals to deal with primary care matters
- A lot of community services available and people should not always use hospitals as a first port of call
- Demand has increased and inflexible rules have not expanded
- People should access the right services for the right condition. Should only present to ED when they need it and should use GPs and treatment centres – messaging needs to improve
- There are GP based at hospitals that are able to deal with primary care matters
- Primary care have a detailed winter plan.

#### **5. Autumn Booster Vaccination Programme**

Committee received the report as written, with a further, verbal update, to be provided at next month's meeting.

#### **6. Service Harmonisation Mid and South Essex ICB**

Committee received the report as written, with a further, verbal update, to be provided at the committee's February 2023 meeting.

#### **7. Mental Health Services for Young People joint Task and Finish Group – final report**

Chairman invited Cllr Guglielmi to present the Task and Finish Group's final report to the HOSC and PAF members.

Members of the Task and Finish Group were thanked for their time and commitment, and the committee received the final report. The report will now be presented to Full Council in December 2022.

#### **8. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman asked if, similar to the visit to Colchester Hospital's, that visits to Princess Alexandra Hospital, Basildon Hospital and Southend Hospital could also be arranged.

#### **9. Member Updates**

Members of the Essex and Suffolk JHOSC met recently and agreed they will be visiting the Clacton Diagnostic Centre in the near future.

Members also asked if a copy of the presentation given to members during the visit to Colchester Hospital on the new elective orthopaedic centre that is currently being constructed.

**10. Care Quality Commission – monthly update**

Members noted the report.

**11. Work Programme**

Members noted the committee's current work programme and asked whether the Section 106 monies item could be bought to the committee in the near future, potentially March 2023.

Members also asked that the following information be provided during the GP Provision update at next month's meeting – 'understand how many patients are being treated by GPs'.

**12. Date of next meeting**

To note that the next committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 1 December 2022 at 10:30am in the Committee Room 1.

**13. Urgent business**

No urgent business received.

**14. Urgent exempt business**

No urgent exempt business received.

The meeting closed at 2:15pm.

**Chairman**