

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,
held in the Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 1 February 2024 at
10:30am**

Present

Cllr Jeff Henry (Chairman)

Cllr Anthony McQuiggan

Cllr Martin Foley

Cllr Richard Moore

Cllr Paul Gadd

Cllr Paula Spenceley

Cllr Ian Grundy

Cllr Mike Steptoe

Cllr Eddie Johnson

Apologies

Cllr Daniel Land

Cllr Stephen Robinson

Cllr June Lumley

Remote Attendees

Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez

The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Emma Hunter, Senior Democratic Services Officer
- Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

1. Membership, apologies and declarations

Apologies were received from Cllr Land, Cllr Lumley and Cllr Robinson.

Cllr Henry declared that he was an ECC appointed governor at Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 January 2024 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

3. Questions from the public

No questions from the public were received.

4. Dementia Services

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Eugene Staunton, Suffolk and North-Essex ICB (joining virtually)
- Joanne Reay, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB (joining virtually)
- Irene Lewsey, Mid and South Essex ICB
- Melanie Williamson, Integrated Dementia Commissioner, ECC

- Will Herbert, Head of Integrated Partnerships, ECC
- Cllr Jane Fleming, Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration,

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

- First meeting of the national optimisation project to look at the dementia diagnosis pathway, working with NHS England, the Institute of Health Research and the private sector
- The project is looking at challenges around capacity and people's awareness of dementia
- Members were shown a video of a couple who are living with dementia and what their experience is like
- Perception is that only older people get dementia
- Rolling out training videos for when people present to primary care services
- High proportion of women are diagnosed with dementia, but other matters are often considered first before referring to the dementia diagnosis pathway
- Primary care tries to rule out other physical issues in the first instance
- Priority in Dementia Strategy is young onset dementia
- Diagnosis pathways across Essex are different depending on the commissioning arrangements that are in place
- Opportunity to look at having a hub in Rochford that people diagnosed with dementia can access, rather than having to travel out of their local area
- Maintains an active social media presence so more people can come forward and access support
- People can self-refer to start the process of getting a diagnosis of dementia

Following discussion, the committee agree the following actions:

- Detailed data the number of people diagnosed with dementia that are successful apply for a blue badge

5. Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust Monthly Update

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Matthew Hopkins, Chief Executive

Due to technical difficulties, the committee instead took this paper as a written report and asked for the below to be shared with the Trust:

- An update on the action plan for cancer care, and to understand the impact due to the delays
- An update on how waiting lists are being reduced

6. Chairman's Report – February 2024

Members noted the report.

7. Member Updates – February 2024

Members noted the report.

Cllr Steptoe provided an update to the Committee on the S106 Working Group. The groups final report will now be presented at the HOSC's April 2024 meeting.

Cllr Harris reported that there had been no further meetings of the Suffolk and North-East Essex Joint Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Work Programme – January 2024

The committee noted the current work programme and made the following comments/requests:

- Update on the new Princess Alexandra hospital in Harlow
- Update on maternity services from the three hospital trusts covering the Essex footprint
- The restarting of the Children's Mental Health Task and Finish Group will be raised at Scrutiny Board on 19 February 2024
- Arrange a visit to the new elective care centre at Colchester Hospital

9. Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2024 at 10:30am in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

10. Future meeting dates 2024/25

Members noted and agreed the dates set out in the report.

11. Urgent Business

No urgent business has been received.

12. Urgent Exempt Business

No urgent exempt business has been received.

The meeting closed at 11:52am.

Chairman