



South East Essex

Cllr Ann Naylor
Cabinet Member for Adult,
Health and Community Wellbeing,
Essex County Council,
Cabinet, Leader & Chief Executive's Office
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South East Essex PCT
Harcourt House
Harcourt Avenue
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SS2 6HE

15th February 2011

Dear Councillor Naylor,

Re: CQC review of services for people who have had a stroke and their carers.

Thank you for your letter dated 20th January 2011 in response to the publication of the CQC Stroke Review. We note your concerns regarding the content of the review and take this opportunity to assure you of NHS SEEs continued commitment to provide high quality, effective services to stroke survivors and their families.

The CQC audit process was undertaken by questionnaire, the format of the questionnaire included multiple choice answers completed with a simple tick. Unfortunately this process did not allow for fully informed answers to explain the range of services available. Therefore, the results of the CQC audit are not demonstrative of the highly developed stroke provision in South East Essex. Southend University Hospital Foundation Trust has a well deserved national reputation for clinical excellence. Following discharge, a high quality, patient centered rehabilitation service provided by specialist stroke community services is available to all patients.

During the summer of 2010 a 'Peer Review' of Community Stroke Rehabilitation Services was undertaken by the Essex Cardiac & Stroke Network. The Essex wide review, comprised of 50 minimum standards based on the national stroke strategy, concluded a high standard of stroke specialised services were available in South East Essex.

The review did include recommendations which NHS SEE will implement during the coming year to further improve stroke services. Early Supported Discharge services are being developed for some stroke patients. Evidence suggests that early discharge coupled with intensive rehabilitation therapy in the patients' home environment speeds the recovery process and improves outcomes. Other initiatives including strengthening the provision of speech and language services and mandatory patient review are also underway.

I trust that this letter gives you assurance that we have these matters in hand and continue to review the services offered but should you require any further information then please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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Deputy Chief Executive

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cc: Andrew Pike
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