

**Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board held at
09:30am on Wednesday 19 July 2023 in Committee Room 1, County Hall,
Chelmsford, CM1 1QH.**

1. Membership, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

Attendees:

Councillor John Spence	Essex County Council (Chairman)
Councillor Jane Fleming	Essex County Council
Councillor Beverley Egan	Essex County Council
Councillor Jeff Henry	Essex County Council
Anthony McKeever	ICS lead and ICB CEO, NHS Mid and South Essex
Will Pope	ICS chair / ICB chair, NHS Suffolk, and North East Essex
Jeff Banks	Mid and South Essex ICS
Will Herbert	Head of Integration Partnerships, ECC
Roger Hirst	Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Toni Coles	Herts and West Essex ICB
Will Hooper	Senior Strategy Advisor, ECC
Peter Davey	Essex Association of Local Councils
Deborah Stuart-Angus	Independent Chair, Essex Safeguarding Adult Boards
Lorraine Jarvis	Chelmsford CVS
Chris Martin	Executive Director for Children, Families & Education
Michael Thorne	ICS chair / ICB chair, NHS Mid and South Essex
Pam Green	Basildon and Brentwood Alliance
Nick Presmeg	Executive Director for Adult Social Care, ECC
Jane Gardner	Deputy Police, Crime
Gemma Andrews	Wellbeing and Public Health Manager, ECC
Clare Kershaw	Director for Education, ECC
Adrian Coggins	Essex County Council
Nathan Rowland	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, ECC
Laura Taylor-Green	Director, NEE Alliance
Mike Thorne	ICS chair / ICB chair, NHS Mid and South Essex,
Deborah Stuart-Angus	Independent Chair, Essex Safeguarding Adult Boards
Lucy Wightman	Director, Wellbeing, Public Health, and Communities, ECC
Nicola Mallett	Head of Profession Data and Analytics, ECC
Rebecca Driver	Director of Communications, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT)
Sam Glover	Chief Executive, Healthwatch
Ian Tompkins	Herts and West Essex ICB
David Walker	Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Fiona Henderson	Essex Police
Martin Lord	CAB Essex and Co-Chair for the Essex VCSE Alliance
Anna Bokobza	EPUT
Clare Burns	NELFT
Dr Peter Scolding	NHS Suffolk, and North East Essex
Freddey Ayres	Democratic Services Officer, ECC
Richard Buttress	Democratic Services Manager, ECC
Jasmine Langley	Democratic Services Officer, ECC

Apologies for absence were received, as set out below:

Ian Davidson	Vice-Chair and Chair of Essex Partnership Strategic Coordination Group
Ed Garrett	ICS lead and ICB CEO, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex
B J Harrington	Essex Police Chief Constable
Gavin Jones	Chief Executive, ECC
Rick Hylton	Essex County Fire and Rescue
Lance McCarthy	CEO, The Princess Alexandra Hospital, NHS
Councillor Lynda McWilliams	North Alliance Political Representative
Councillor Kay Mitchell	Chair of Southend HWB, Southend City Council
Councillor Mike Steel	Essex County Council
David Archibald	Independent Safeguarding Chair
Paul Burstow	ICB chair, NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex
Jane Halpin (Toni Coles substituting)	ICS lead and ICB CEO, NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB
Dr Anna Davey	Primary Care Partner Member on MSE ICB
Alison Wilson (Martin Lord substituting)	Chief Executive, Mind West Essex
Susannah Howard	ICS Programme Director, Suffolk, and Northeast Essex ICS
Paul Scott (Anna Bokobza substituting)	EPUT
Nick Hume (Rebecca Driver substituting)	Chief Executive of East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust (ESNEFT)
Jacqui Van-Rossum (Clare Burns substituting)	NELFT
Dan Doherty	Mid Essex Alliance
Jennifer Gould	Epping Forest District Council
Simon Williams	Basildon & Brentwood Alliance
Alison Wilson	Mind in West Essex (Voluntary Sector)
Georgina Blakemore	Chief Executive of Epping Forest District Council
Helen Lincoln	Executive Director for Children, Families & Education

Cllr John Spence moved the proposal to appoint Ian Davidson as the Vice-Chairman of the Board with Cllr Peter Davey seconding the proposal. There were no other nominations. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that Board members agreed with general assent that Ian Davidson was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Cllr John Spence welcomed his new deputy Cabinet Member, Cllr Jane Fleming, to the Board and noted that Cllr Jaymey McIvor would also be attending future Board meetings as his deputy Cabinet Member.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the meeting and progress report on actions arising

It was **RESOLVED** that the Board agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting and noted the updated progress report on the outstanding actions.

3. Questions from the public

There were no public questions.

4. Mid and South Essex ICS

4a. Mid and South Essex Joint Forward Plan (HWB/12/23a): Jeff Banks.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Board agreed to endorse the Mid and South Essex Joint Forward Plan.

4b. Update on Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust Hospital Performance and CQC Action Plan (HWB/12/23b): David Walker and Jeff Henry.

David Walker gave a verbal update on the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) Hospital Performance and CQC Action plan, with key points being highlighted below:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited the Trust in January 2023 and carried out an inspection of the Medical Service only. The inspection was carried out during the second week of January, which was one of the busiest times for the Trust.

The CQC found several issues of concern and as a result of the inspection, the medical service was rated inadequate across all three Acute Trust sites.

Basildon and Broomfield Hospitals were rated as 'inadequate' and Southend Hospital remained at 'requires improvement'. The overall rating for the Trust was found to be 'requires improvement'.

The principle issues of concern the CQC found were:

- Basic fundamentals of care.
- Nutrition and hydration for patients.
- Documentation, particularly risk assessments.
- Concerns regarding environment, particularly concerning care of patients with mental health problems.

The Trust had been aware of the issues highlighted in advance of the inspection and were working to address them at the time by instituting a programme called 'Foundations for the Future', which included a workstream around 'brilliant basics' focussing on the fundamentals of care. However, the work had not made sufficient progress by the time of the inspection.

There was an action plan in place to address the aforementioned issues and following the CQC inspection report, which was received in June 2023, the Trust updated the action plan and noted significant changes had been made due to implementing the action plan.

The CQC re-visited the Trust during July 2023 and whilst (at the time of the meeting) there had not been any formal feedback received, the informal feedback given by the CQC on the day was supportive and positive, with no issues of immediate concern being raised. The CQC had also recognised the progress made by the Trust against the key areas of concern.

The Trust expressed a hope that the recent re-visit would enable them to be upgraded from their inadequate rating.

Cllr Jeff Henry as Chairman of the Health, Oversight and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) together with other committee members had worked closely with Mid and South Essex NHS

Foundation Trust on operational performance, the Community Diagnostic Centre programme, urology reconfiguration, and progress on actions from the CQC visit.

Cllr Jeff Henry gave an update on the work of the HOSC, with key points being highlighted below:

In early February the HOSC discussed the complexities and pressures the Trust was experiencing, with winter pressures having been compounded by younger people coming through the health system, staff shortages and ambulance shortages.

Cllr Jeff Henry on behalf of the HOSC expressed surprise that the CQC report had taken four months to be issued, and disappointment that the judgement was given based on what the situation was in February, considering all the good work which had happened since to improve the Trust. Cllr Jeff Henry stated that he was intending to write to the CQC to express these concerns. The Board was supportive of this approach, and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr John Spence would also write to the CQC on behalf of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board to express the same concerns.

Cllr Jeff Henry and the HOSC visited Southend Hospital in May and reported that there had been considerable reworking and rethinking regarding the patient journey, particularly on the Dowsett (same day emergency care) and Discharge wards.

Cllr Jeff Henry remarked on the improved flow throughout Southend Hospital and noted that considering the age of the building, the same adaptations could be easily replicated throughout the other Trust sites.

The Board discussed the impact on staff following the CQC report and it was advised that morale had been impacted. It was however, reported that staff turnover rates, recruitment and retention had all seen improvements and that there had also been an increased uptake in staff training. The Board offered its support to the Trust in considering their staff's own health and wellbeing.

Will Pope gave an update on the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex offer to be an ICB pilot for the 'programme of future development' which was unsuccessful. Will Pope stated that he would feedback to the Board if there were any further developments.

Action: It was agreed that Cllr John Spence would write to the CQC to highlight concerns and encourage improvements regarding the timeframe between inspections and publication of reports.

Action: Following a request from NHS England, it was RESOLVED that Board members were asked to provide any comments to Cllr John Spence via the Secretariat (essex.partners@essex.gov.uk) regarding the ICB first year assessment programme by no later than Thursday 20th July.

5. Better Care Fund (BCF) (HWB/13/23): Will Herbert.

Will Herbert gave a brief update on the Better Care Fund (BCF), with key points being highlighted below:

- The BCF was a pooled fund between Essex County Council and the three NHS Integrated Care Boards in Essex. The BCF was created by national government in 2013 to promote integration of health and social care services. In 2023/24, the value of the Essex BCF pooled fund was £193.9m, increasing to £209.6m in 2024/25.

- The BCF Plan brought together NHS and local government funding worth £193.9m in 2023/24 to provide vital services that supported Essex residents with health and care needs. The Planning Guidance for this fund would run for two years from 2023 to 2025, but it was expected that a specific plan for 2024/25 will be developed.
- Capacity and demand planning had increased in emphasis and would be part of the assurance process for the 2023/24 plan.
- It was noted that the fund would work closely with districts through local BCF Groups to oversee the predicted increase in information required regarding activity projections including elements such as the disabled facilities grants.
- Discharge funding was added to the formal BCF process for 2023/24. This element of the BCF brought in over £6.5 million for ECC, £5 million for Mid and South Essex, £1.7 million for Suffolk and North East Essex and £1.5 million for Hertfordshire and West Essex.
- An additional metric around falls was added for 2023/24 as part of the focus on prevention work.
- The BCF plan was submitted in early July 2023 with feedback likely to be available in September 2023, following regional assurance processes.
- Will Herbert noted that there would be a written report update available in 2024 which would be brought back to the Board.
- The Board discussed the Disabled Facilities Grants and how this enabled people to remain in their own homes. It was confirmed that in each Alliance there was a local BCF group, and they were looking to expand membership to include district, borough and city representatives to provide a joint-up approach to consider how the grants could be better utilised, as there were reportedly underspends in some areas.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Board endorsed the 2023-25 Better Care Fund Plan.

Action: It was agreed that Will Herbert would share a breakdown of information regarding each District, Borough, and City Council's Better Care Fund underspend to colleagues as appropriate. Will Herbert to action by 11th August 2023.

Action: HWB Secretariat to add BCF report update, detailing the half-year stage of the BCF Fund, to the forward plan for 2024. To action by 11th August.

6. Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy (HWB/14/23): Moira McGrath.

The Board received an update on the development of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy 2023 – 2028 which was undergoing formal governance processes with statutory partners, with key points being highlighted below:

- Southend, Essex and Thurrock had been working together over the previous 18 months to determine how best to implement the key priorities and developed a strategic framework which supported local planning in the ICB's, Alliances and at neighbourhood level.

- The clinical priorities in the strategy reflected national priorities of the NHS and also focussed on: prevention and early intervention; wider determinants of health, particularly around employment and accommodation; and health inequalities.
- The next stage of work was to develop a detailed implementation plan, working alongside constituent organizations, recognizing that approximately 80% of the implementation would be done at a local level.
- There were key pieces of work to be done regarding the wider-Essex footprint, acknowledging that the majority of community work takes place in local systems.
- The board discussed stigma of mental health which was prevalent within particular ethnic demographics and how the strategy would tackle the issue by understanding the matter on a local level and referencing national and international evidence to improve outcomes for the whole of the Essex population. Moira highlighted that a new consultant would be joining the team who would focus on, among other areas, mental health, and inequalities.
- Moira confirmed that a draft plan would be brought back to the board by late Autumn this year.
- The Board discussed the Police's involvement with the strategy and noted that there would be a memorandum of understanding between policing and mental health at a national level released in the next week. It was confirmed by Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, that despite statements from the Metropolitan Police regarding reduction of police involvement in mental health interventions, it was not Essex Police's intention to reduce their involvement.
- It was noted that following positive work taking place elsewhere in the country regarding mental health support generally, that discussions were taking place on how to implement similar practice in Essex, as appropriate.
- The Board discussed the workforce in relation to mental health provision, and in particular the skills gaps within the workforce. It was noted that whilst there was some positive increase in the mental health workforce in Essex, there were some aspects where it remained a significant challenge.
- The Board discussed the work being undertaken through the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategic Board, to complete a review on teenage suicides since the last report in 2017. It was noted that the review would be able to be fed into the Mental Health implementation plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Board endorsed the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy, subject to formal governance elsewhere.

Action: HWB secretariat to add the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy Implementation Plan to the forward plan and consult with Moira McGrath to determine whether this would come to the Board in September or November. To be determined by 1st September 2023.

7. Suicide Prevention (HWB/15/23): Jane Gardner and Gemma Andrews.

Jane Gardner and Gemma Andrews gave an update on local and national context for suicide prevention, with key points being highlighted below:

- It was noted that the report was previously based on the financial year, however had changed to reflect the calendar year to accommodate year on year comparisons and benchmarking against national figures.
- It was noted that there had been a shift from the existing recommendation of focusing on 45 - 64 year old males, to males aged 25 – 44, 45 – 64 and 75+ and females aged 25–44 years (i.e. a shift to a universal response, informed by known drivers, rather than age or sex).
- In response to historically high suicide rates in North East Essex (NEE), NEE was to lead the piloting of a locality operating model (SET SP Partnership led Hub and Spoke).
- Jane Gardner thanked all partner organisations and individuals contributing to the SET Suicide Prevention Partnership agenda through financial / staffing sponsorship, championship, and direct work, and noted progress made through these commitments, next steps and the importance of sustainability.

Action: It was agreed that the Children's Suicide Data Review would be added to the forward plan for the next meeting. This item is to include a briefing on the work going forward, as the full review will not be available by September. To be completed by Friday 1st September

8. Data Declaration (HWB/16/23): Fiona Henderson.

Fiona Henderson and Nicola Mallet gave an update on the Data Declaration which had been developed between Essex Police, Essex County Council and the University of Essex to facilitate better sharing of information for understanding and addressing system-wide problems effectively.

It was noted that all but one of the original intended signatories had signed up to the data declaration.

It was noted that organisations the initiative wanted to target were health colleagues who wanted to join, in particular Chief Executives of ICS's or ICB's, NHS Trusts and Mental Health Trusts.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Board agreed for Fiona Henderson and Nicola Mallet to approach signatories they wish to sign-up to the Data Declaration, via the ICB's, and or the item to be brought back to the Board for an update in the future.

Action: HWB Secretariat to add an item for an update on the Data Declaration sign-up and implementation to the forward plan for a date to be determined with Fiona Henderson. To be Completed by Friday 11th August.

9. Introduction to the Workshop: Adrian Coggins.

Adrian Coggins introduced the Board's afternoon workshop on the subject of Obesity.

10. Forward Plan

The Board members noted the forward plan, and it was **RESOLVED** that any suggestions from members were to be sent to the secretariat for consideration.

Action: It was agreed that the HWB Secretariat would add an update on the Harlow Hospital re-building to the forward plan. To be completed by Friday 11th August.

Action: It was agreed that the HWB Secretariat would add an item to the forward plan detailing the spread of dentistry provision across the Essex footprint; showing the areas where there are gaps in provision, looking at where this coincides with areas of deprivation, and seeking consideration of how this could be addressed. To be completed by Friday 11th August.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th September 2023, at a venue to be confirmed.

12. Date of 2024 meetings

The following dates were noted as proposed dates for meetings taking place in 2024:

- 24th January
- 20th March
- 15th May
- 17th July
- 18th September
- 20th November

13. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

14. Urgent Exempt Business

The was no urgent exempt business.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:12.