

<b>PAF/01/18</b>
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**Committee** People and Families Policy and Scrutiny

**Date** 11 January 2018

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## **TASK AND FINISH GROUP – HIP FRACTURES AND FALLS PREVENTION**

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### **Recommendation:**

- (i) To note the work undertaken so far by the Joint Task and Finish Group established with the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee, to look at issues in connection with the rate of hip fractures in Essex;
- (ii) To endorse the proposed focus and scope of the review; and
- (iii) That further progress reports be received from the Task & Finish Group in due course.

### **Background:**

During the summer both the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PAF) received a briefing from Councillor Spence, the Cabinet Member for Health on some of the key issues and challenges in health and social care.

Allowing for local demographics, Essex as a county has statistically higher rates of hip fracture for people over 65 years of age than national average. Essex is the only area in east of England with this higher than national average fracture rate. This incidence spikes in different parts of the county over time. Recognised risk factors do not change drastically over single years in each district and so do not present clear reasons for the variation by geography by year.

At the request of members a 'follow-up' briefing on hip fractures and falls prevention was provided for both committees in a joint session held on 14 September. Both committees agreed (at their respective meetings in October 2017) that a joint Task and Finish Group should be established to look at aspects around the incidence of hip fractures and falls in Essex.

### **Scoping by the Group**

During the scoping exercise four key lines of enquiry/focus were considered:

1. Social care – support for daily living & domiciliary carers and / or care homes/nursing homes.
2. District Councils - housing assessment and adaptations.
3. Greater local understanding of the circumstances of fractures / falls particularly in relation to scene data collection.
4. Greater local understanding of the circumstances of fractures and the data collected at hospital.

The Group now proposes that it focus on Option 1 above and specifically whether Essex County Council commission care homes/nursing homes with the safest environments, whilst acknowledging that aspects of the other options above may also be included in the review. The Group have indicated that they would want to visit some care homes as part of the review. A draft Scoping Document is attached.

#### Involvement of other ECC members

The Scrutiny Board has agreed that all ECC members should be invited to indicate if they would like to have the opportunity to contribute to any future reviews by Task and Finish Groups. The expectation is that this will usually be as a witness or helping in identifying witnesses and/or information. In exceptional circumstances it may involve being co-opted onto the Task and Finish Group but membership priority will be given to the members of the committee(s) actually setting up the Task and Finish Group.

#### Timetable for completion

A proposed scope and focus of the review is now being presented to both the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee and PAF for endorsement. Thereafter, the Scrutiny Board ordinarily expects Task and Finish Group reviews, once commenced, to be completed within three months.