

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,  
held in County Hall, Chelmsford on Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 10:30am**

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**Present**

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| Cllr Jeff Henry (Chairman)       | Cllr Bob Massey                   |
| Cllr David Carter (Co-opted)     | Cllr Carlie Mayes (Co-opted)      |
| Cllr Paul Gadd                   | Cllr Jaymey McIvor                |
| Cllr Dave Harris (Vice-Chairman) | Cllr Anthony McQuiggan            |
| Cllr Luke Mackenzie              | Cllr Clive Souter (Vice-Chairman) |

**Apologies**

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Lynda McWilliams (Co-opted) | Cllr Mike Steptoe |
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The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Jasmine Carswell, Democratic Services Officer.

**1. Membership, apologies and declarations**

Apologies were received from Cllr McWilliams and Cllr Steptoe. No substitutions were appointed.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 January 2022 were approved by the Committee as an accurate record.

**3. Questions from the public**

No questions from members of the public were received.

**4. Community Children's Services – South East Essex**

The Chairman welcomed Tricia D'Orsi from the Castle Point and Rochford CCG to the meeting.

The Committee received the following update covering these key issues:

- This proposal was presented and endorsed by Southend Borough Council's People and Families Committee on 9 February 2022
- This report is for noting and the Committee are asked to support the recommendations set out in the paper
- These children's services are usually provided by a community service and not a hospital provider and it was felt the best option was to novate the contract to Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT)
- It is recognised they need to create a different offer and the new model will be more attractive to the workforce

- EPUT have a proven track record of delivering paediatric services in Mid and South Essex
- Due diligence was completed around ASD diagnosis and decision taken to extend the service to 18-year-olds at the point of novation
- Efficiency will come from services working better, with a strong multi-disciplinary focus
- Power of feedback from resident voices is imperative as to how the service is taken forward – do not want it to be a top-down service.

After discussion, it was **Resolved** that:

- i) Further update to be provided to the Committee in six months
- ii) Committee endorsed the recommendations set out in the report

## 5. Urgent and Emergency Performance Update

The Chairman welcomed Neill Moloney, Deputy Chief Executive at East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) to the meeting.

The Committee received the following update covering these key issues:

- Most patients who require urgent care start out in the community and arrive at hospital via ambulance. Many patients are managed at home and do not require hospital treatment
- Have started to identify different pathways where patients who only need A&E care are taken there. Urgent treatment services are based in Clacton and Colchester Hospital and are working effectively
- Trying to minimise the amount of time someone has to spend in a hospital bed
- Planning for seasonal pressures starts very early. ESNEFT had a robust plan with regard the Covid-19 situation late last year
- Saw an increase in activity during omicron variant. High levels of staff sickness and ability to respond to challenges were impacted by this
- Lessons have been learnt from experience last year – ESNEFT did not raise a critical incident. 45 patients currently in Colchester Hospital with Covid-19
- Elective care waiting times have increased – now in excess of 1500 patients across the Trust. Target is that no one waits more than two years for elective treatment. On track to meet this target in March 2022.

After discussion, it was **Resolved** that:

- i) Further update to be presented to Committee in October/November 2022

The Chairman welcomed Elizabeth Podd, Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust to the meeting.

The Committee received the following update covering these key issues:

- Urgent Treatment Centre at PAH expanded to 7 days a week between 07:00 – 02:00

- PAH reviewed and relocated day case activity to support patient surgery
- Developed a cohort area in the Emergency Department with ED and East of England Crews to support ambulance handover
- Extended the operating hours of the discharge lounge
- Opened additional community capacity on the PAH site with Essex Partnership Trust support
- Enhanced virtual ward support for patients in Essex
- Opened and responded as required for covid capacity
- Created surge capacity for inpatients
- Created super surge capacity if needed to support inpatients
- Relocated and opened Red ITU
- The end of 'lockdown' precipitated a significant increase in attendances higher than at any time over the last five years, impacting our performance against the standard
- May 2020 – January 2021 saw an increase each month in handovers
- With bed occupancy, there has been a gradual increase in length of stay, stranded and super stranded patients.

After discussion, it was **Resolved** that:

- i) Further update to be presented to Committee in October/November 2022

## **6. Chairman's Report**

The Committee noted the information update within the Chairman's report.

The Committee agreed to invite Healthwatch Essex to future Chairman's Forum meetings.

## **7. Member Updates**

The following updates were provided to the Committee:

## **8. Work Programme**

The Committee noted the current work programme.

## **9. Future Meeting Dates**

The Committee agreed the proposed future meetings dates for the 2022/23 municipal year.

## **10. Appointment to Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group**

The Committee nominated Cllr Jeff Henry to be on Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

To note that the next committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 3 March 2022 at 10:30am.

## **12. Urgent business**

No urgent business received.

**13. Urgent exempt business**

No urgent exempt business received.

The meeting closed at 12:14pm.

**Chairman**