

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,  
held in County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 7 July 2022 at 10:30am**

---

**Present**

Cllr Jeff Henry (Chairman)

Cllr Anthony McQuiggan

Cllr Paul Gadd

Cllr Richard Moore

Cllr Dave Harris

Cllr Clive Souter

Cllr Bob Massey

Cllr Mike Steptoe

Cllr Jaymey McIvor

Sharon Westfield-de-Cortez

**Apologies**

Cllr David Carter (Co-opted)

Cllr Lynda McWilliams (Co-opted)

Cllr Carlie Mayes (Co-opted)

**Remote Attendees**

Cllr June Lumley

---

The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Membership, apologies and declarations**

Apologies were received from Cllr Carter, Cllr Mayes and Cllr McWilliams. Cllr Lumley joined the meeting remotely.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Pending two alterations, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 June 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 Inpatient Beds – Mid and South Essex**

The Chairman welcomed the following to the meeting:

- Claire Hankey, Director of Communications and Engagement
- James Wilson, Transformation Director
- Andy Vowles, Programme Director.

The Committee received the following update covering the following key issues:

- Historically NHS community beds were on six main sites across Mid and South Essex

- Urgent changes made in 2020 in response to Covid-19 – beds were consolidated in Brentwood, ceased providing beds in Halstead and small number of beds were moved from Basildon to Brentwood
- Programme to agree future configuration ensuring consistent model for intermediate care and improve community stroke rehabilitation
- Working to identify potential configuration options including analysis of projected future bed numbers, travel time, condition of current estate and proposed staffing models
- Independent clinical review of proposed pathways was completed in April 2022
- Panel considers proposals for intermediate care, stroke and sub-acute frailty
- The panel were broadly supportive of proposals
- There were nine recommendations for improvement and full report is due to be published later in 2022
- Planned engagement was delayed by Omicron and was completed between January 2022 – April 2022
- Qualitative interviews held with public and stakeholders, staff and patients
- The 'home first' approach was widely seen to be best where relevant skills and capacity were available
- Community beds provide an opportunity for more holistic personalised care
- Pre-consultation engagement implications identified were:
  - Home first but community beds highly valuable
  - Ease of access for patients and carers
  - Care tailored to each person's individual need
  - Vital to match workforce numbers and skills to patient need
- Next steps are to finalise configuration options taking on board the feedback
- Complete pre-consultation business case and complete NHS England assurance
- Need to agree approach to public consultation/engagement.

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

- i) Further update to be provided to the committee in Autumn 2022

## 5. East of England Ambulance Service Trust

The Chairman welcomed Tom Abell, Chief Executive of the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) to the meeting.

The Committee received the following update covering the following key issues:

- Significant increase in emergency care demand nationally which has impacted response times locally
- Private ambulances put into place to cope with spike in demand. 30% improvement in C1 response time (life threatening matters) and 50% improvement in C2 response times
- Launched significant recruitment programme which is working well
- Working on improving handover delays
- Trust has had significant levels of regulatory escalation. Continuing to make good progress on CQC actions and most are now complete

- Further inspection completed by CQC, and report is expected to be completed next week
- All apprenticeship programmes have been moved to a new training provider – it is likely that EEAST will not take back control of this
- Further work still to be done on culture – starting to narrow down on key hotspots in the Trust rather than it being endemic across the whole service
- Small improvement in the reduction of bullying/harassment from managers. New managers training launched to help them understand what supportive line management is and what is effective performance line management
- Challenges around making sure they have sufficient high-quality placements and lower paid apprenticeships
- Community engagement team are now getting out to schools to talk about careers in the ambulance service, and partnering with police and fire around community days
- EEAST are working hard to make sure its dispatch system is up to date as possible when new housing developments are built. Map updates come from Ordnance Survey, and it is important developers and local authorities update this when new houses and roads are built
- Trust adopted new type of ambulance a few years ago, in line with national specification. Trust is finding difficulties for certain members of staff in terms of height, and they have retained a few of its previous fleet for those individuals affected to continue their work
- Trust has delayed buying any new vehicles to keep the existing vehicles in service
- EEAST undertake routine compliance visits of its sites so they can understand any issues developing
- All the executive team have coaches/mentors to help support them.

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

- i) Committee to receive a further update in 6 – 8 months' time

## 6. Chairman's Report

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

## 7. Member Updates

Members noted the report.

## 8. Work Programme

The Committee noted the current work programme, and the following comments were made:

- Committee invited ECC's Public Health team to its September 2022 meeting to provide an update on the current situation with Covid-19
- Committee asked for a list of all CQC reports for providers in Essex that have been assessed as either inadequate or requires improvement.
- Work to be undertaken on Section 106 monies in the health service and update provided back to the committee
- HOSC to draft letter to appropriate officers to clarify who is responsible for requesting drawdowns of Section 106 monies relating to the health service

**9. Date of next meeting**

To note that the next committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 27 July 2022 at 10:30am in the Council Chamber.

**10. Urgent business**

No urgent business received.

**11. Urgent exempt business**

No urgent exempt business received.

The meeting closed at 11:50am.

**Chairman**