

Essex County Council
Cabinet Office
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1QH



Mr Anthony McKeever
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board
Phoenix Court
Christopher Martin Road
Basildon
Essex
SS14 3HG

27th July 2023

Dear Anthony,

The Essex Health and Wellbeing Board is supportive of the MSE JFP and the actions it sets out. It has taken into consideration both the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex and there are clear links to the priorities in these documents.

We welcome the commitment the JFP sets out to place-based working through the alliances and the development of neighbourhood teams and the ambition to explore integration of services at every level, taking joined up health and care decisions closer to the resident.

We are also pleased with the emphasis the JFP places on investing upstream in evidence-based interventions and preventative activities. This aligns well with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that identified 'Focusing on prevention and early intervention' as a cornerstone to long term sustainability and one of the foundations of collective success for the system.

It is important that the JFP is all-age and, although the document signals this by recognising important issues such as the need for the system to collaborate on issues such as transitions to adulthood and the expansion of support for children and young people's mental health, we feel the emphasis on pre-birth, children and young people's outcomes could be strengthened. This is essential if we are to address the increase in caseload numbers and complexity following the pandemic.

Most importantly the JFP recognises that being successful in reducing health inequalities requires us to work together and that no single action or single organisation is able to have impact alone, it demands a sustained organised collaborative focus. We look forward to working in an equal partnership with our NHS colleagues through the ICB, ICP and HWB to provide joined-up health and care services to the people of Mid and South Essex and tackle the causes of ill health.

We recognise that each ICB has been given a very challenging task of reducing its running costs by 20% from April 2024 and by a further 10% from April 2025. Essex County Council encourages MSE to work collaboratively with the other Essex ICBs, and ECC itself, to ensure it explores opportunities for joint working and efficiencies in a way that avoids or minimises

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adverse impacts on Essex residents. Two areas identified in conversations so far between ICBs and ECC have been around mental health and children's services. We are keen to support those conversations to ensure we improve services in these areas and achieve potential economies of scale.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Spence".

Cllr John Spence
Chairman, Essex Health and Wellbeing Board