

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,
held in the Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 6 April
2023 at 10:30am**

Present

Cllr Jeff Henry (chairman)

Cllr Carlie Mayes (co-opted)

Cllr Paul Gadd

Cllr Anthony McQuiggan

Cllr Dave Harris (vice-chairman)

Cllr Richard Moore

Cllr June Lumley

Cllr Clive Souter (vice-chairman)

Cllr Bob Massey

Cllr Mike Steptoe

Apologies

Cllr David Carter (co-opted)

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Cllr Martin Foley

The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Jasmine Langley, Democratic Services Officer

1. Membership, apologies and declarations

Apologies were received from Councillors Carter, Foley and McWilliams.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2 March 2023 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

Cllr Lumley asked if her attendance could be added to the minutes of the previous meeting. This has now been amended.

3. Questions from the public

No questions from the public were received.

4. Children's Community Health Services Mid and South Essex – Lighthouse Paediatric Centre

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Helen Farmer, Deputy Director for Babies, Children and Young People, Mid and South Essex ICS

The committee received the following update and responses to their questions:

- The Lighthouse delivers specialist community children's services, including speech and language

- The service was previously being delivered by partly by EPUT and MSE. The Trust served notice to the then CCGs in 2021 and asked for the service to be transferred to another provider. The contract was awarded to EPUT after due process
- At the time performance was a challenge and have been on a journey of improvement. Still on this journey but progress is being made
- Feedback received from parents and carers has improved and focus continues to be on co-design
- A children's panel has been established across MSE and is central to development work
- Service development improvement plan has been approved and includes recruitment of a specialist who deals with people that have Tourette's
- Backlog remains with continued pressure on services, in line with the national picture
- Pressures on community children's services reported in the media recently
- Have seen an increase in demand of around 10 – 20% in referrals
- Business case put forward to address backlog and additional money from ICB of £1.5m will go towards this. Additional funding of £400k also received
- Encouraging 'grow our own' in terms of workforce
- Successful at securing additional funds for early years, focusing on oral hygiene and health
- Funding received to recruit a palliative and end of life care specialist
- Risk around increase in demand – sustainability issue
- Gap in this service provision for 16 – 18-year-olds for a long time. Previous arrangement was to have individual arrangement for each child
- Can now be referred straight to Lighthouse now. Monitoring carefully and receiving feedback. Transition stage is important and working to ensure there is not a gap in provision
- Immediate backlog is being addressed by locum and temporary staff which is costly. Long term discussions around having a more integrated and MDT model, providing much more holistic care which is more sustainable in the long term
- Working closely with the other two ICBs on specialist community agenda. Five different providers across the Essex footprint but framework has been created so everyone works to the same model of delivery
- Have seen an increase in the complexity of referrals being received. Have seen a reduction in the number of children presenting in crisis/higher levels of need
- Essex Parents Panel and Southend Parents Panel – information is collated and shared via social media, 'The Wall'
- Enables people to see the impact of their feedback and the action taken and how it informs the strategy going forward
- Workforce strategy – SEND review has indicated there will be a national review of workforce. Need to retain staff once they join and understand pressures staff are under and make sure people are managing their stresses and strains appropriately
- Services should be built around child's needs and build resilience in the system.

5. East of England Ambulance Service Trust

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting:

- Tom Abell, Chief Executive, East of England Ambulance Service Trust

The committee received the following update and responses to their questions:

- Ambulance services have had a challenging time over the winter period
- EEAST are working to improve response times to patients
- Regulatory and cultural issues have blighted the service for a number of years
- December had a challenging response times to patients – increase in patients presenting with covid and flu, and handover delays at hospitals
- They saw an increase in staff sickness absence also
- Improvement in handover times and responses in January and February
- Response time for C2 patient reduced to around 40mins (from 90mins)
- EEAST have been successful at securing investment - £27m national funding to be used to increase capacity in the ambulance service, including 300 frontline clinicians.
- EEAST are under resourced from an ambulance perspective
- Currently have a good recruitment pipeline into the service
- Investing in having more senior clinicians working in the call handling centre
- To improve patient safety, are doubling number of clinicians in control rooms
- Logistically difficult to deliver ambulance services in Essex due to rural and coastal areas
- Looking to be able to prescribe so people do not have to go to hospital
- 'Make ready being rolled out, which are teams in stations who can make sure ambulances are cleaned, stocked etc. Currently in Chelmsford and rolling out to other areas. Will save each ambulance crew 30 – 40 minutes of time
- Working with colleagues in Fire and rescue to deliver a response mode - successful pilot in Bedfordshire. It has been agreed in principal, now looking at rolling out across Essex
- Quite a lot of overlap with bariatric patients – resource intensive and better to be carried out by the fire service
- EEAST have satisfied concerns raised around sexual harassment in the workplace and with Ofsted around training provision. Training pipelines are now back up and running
- Staff survey across NHS did show good improvement – EEAST had best improvement across all ambulance services across the country
- Looking at how they can improve culture at the trust, particularly around professional standards. Need to make sure leaders are equipped
- Lifespan of an ambulance vehicle is five years and have retained a number of the older ambulances
- There is an established maintenance regime and have ordered 10 Ford based ambulances, 10 electric ambulances and 10 Mann based ambulances. Will test to see if they are more suitable than the older Mercedes vehicles
- Revisiting the national specification with other ambulance services
- Culture change is progressive and remain in special measures with NHS England
- Retention of staff is critical, partly through cultural work to make sure joiners are well supported

- There is limited progression once qualified as a paramedic. Through the advanced practice programme this will help with retaining staff and not losing them to other areas of the NHS
- Advanced paramedics have equivalent of a master's degree
- There is one critical and urgent care car in each Essex ICB footprint
- Flexible working arrangements are difficult and still quite rigid. Reviewing shift pattern lengths
- Looking at making emergency services as a statutory consultee for planning applications as it is currently not as they are not accessing Section 106 monies as it should/could.

6. Chairman's Report – March 2023

Members noted the report.

The Chairman updated the committee on the initial forming meeting held with health colleagues regarding Section 106 monies. Further informal discussions are to be had before being presented to the committee formally.

7. Member Updates

Members noted the report.

The Chairman informed the committee that a new Chief Executive, Matthew Hopkins, has been appointed to the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust.

8. Work Programme – March 2023

The committee noted the current work programme.

The committee requested an update on the covid booster programme be presented at the June meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 June 2023 at 10:30am in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

Cllr Massey gave his apologies for the June meeting.

10. Urgent Business

No urgent business has been received.

11. Urgent Exempt Business

No urgent exempt business has been received.

The meeting closed at 12:02pm.

Chairman