

**Official / Sensitive**



## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Reference: EQIA105756851

Submitted: 14 February 2019 12:06 PM

# Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** Provision of Adult Mental Health Services

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** 1.1 The two Section 75 Partnership Agreements with Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT), which have been in place since 2002 to provide integrated Mental Health services across Essex, come to an end on 31 March 2019. This report asks the Cabinet Member to extend for one year pending a longer-term commissioning decision to be taken by Cabinet later this year.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Help people get the best start and age well

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well:** Enable more vulnerable adults to live independent of social care, Improve the health of people in Essex

**Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?:** a new policy (or decision)

## Assessing the equality impact

**Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision):** Service users will continue to have access to current provision. ECC has staff seconded to EPUT and they will continue in their current roles. The wider community will continue to have access to the secondary care as they do now.

We have recently completed a new cross-partner Mental Health JSNA. We also commissioned Healthwatch to do the user engagement work to inform our new strategy. All these exercises tell us that people need and wish to see services which join up across partners, give people meaningful and purposeful activity and support their recovery holistically (rather than just treat symptoms). Extending the S75 enables us to implement changes needed to deliver these things. It also continues an integrated approach which is valued by people using services.

We have not consulted directly about the extension because it is a fairly short continuation of the current system set-up. However, engagement work and coproduction have formed the foundation of our new Strategy and will continue to take place during implementation.

When we are clear that changes to services are being made, we will consult or engage; however, to design changes, our new Strategy commits us to a co-production approach which places the voice of people who use services on an equal footing with partners commissioning and delivering services. We are moving forward that approach by working with our Mental Health Ambassadors, facilitated via Healthwatch. This group of expert-by-experience, will help us to design and embed any changes which may follow the extension period.

### **Does or will the policy or decision affect:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** Yes

**The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities:** Yes

**Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?:** All Essex

**Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?:** Yes

**Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?:** No

**Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?:** Yes

# Description of impact

**Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank.:**  
Disability - mental health issues

# Disability - mental health issues

**Nature of impact:** Neutral

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** the decision supports a continuation of the current delegation of activities to EPUT.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We do not expect the nature of service to change. As part of the work we are doing we may expect an improvement in operational practice.

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your EqlA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No**

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date EqIA completed:** 14/02/2019

**Name of person completing the EqIA:** Susan Dunn

**Email address of person completing the EqIA:** Susan.Dunn@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Adult Social Care

**Your service area:** Project Manager on Mental Health Project

**Your team:** DSD

**Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** Yes

**Email address of Head of Service:** emily.oliver@essex.gov.uk