

<b>Report title:</b> Chairman's Report	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager	
<b>Date:</b> 23 September 2020	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the latest update reporting on discussions at HOSC Chairman's Forum meetings (Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Lead JHOSC Member).

## 2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and identify any issues arising.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Forum usually meets monthly in between scheduled Committee meetings to discuss work planning. In addition, there are also meetings with the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care on a bi-monthly basis and quarterly meetings with senior officers.

## 4. Update and Next Steps

- 4.1. The Forum met virtually on 25 August 2020.

Considered timings for re-commencing proactive work programme items.

**Agreed** main agenda item for HOSC meeting on 23 September 2020, namely

- (i) Mental Health Services (response to pandemic and future service planning for changes in demand).

**Agreed** that a further update on the *Impact of Covid-19 on Personal Behaviours* be presented to the committee at its October 2020 meeting.

The Forum also had an informal discussion with Sue Waterhouse, Director of Mental Health for Mid and South Essex regarding changes to Acute Mental Health Beds in South Essex.

The Forum were informed that they are in the process of refurbishing wards on the Basildon Mental Health Unit which aims to eliminate dormitory provision and replace these facilities with single bedrooms, a CQC requirement by 2021. They plan to move one ward from the Basildon site to Rochford Hospital site, in effect balancing the wards resulting in two wards on each site.

The benefits will be that less patients will be required to be treated in Basildon that originate from the South East area. The ward they will be moving to is a purpose-built ward that was closed a number of years ago but is of a very good standard and provides single bedrooms. They are also taking this opportunity to change the wards from mixed sex to single sex which is a recommended approach for achieving safety and dignity in inpatient settings.

The Forum agreed that this is not a variation in service and therefore does not require formal consultation with the HOSC.

## **5. List of Appendices**

Appendix A: Changes to Acute Mental Health Beds in South Essex