

Report title: Childrens Community Health Services Mid and South Essex	
Report to: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
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Date: 6 April 2023	For: Discussion
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a written update regarding children's community services previously delivered by Mid and South Essex Foundation Trust (MSEFT) at the Lighthouse Child Development Centre. This follows the transfer of these services to Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) on the 1st March 2022.
- 1.2 This report follows on from previous reports presented to HOSC the latest being in October 2022.
- 1.3 The strategy to improve the delivery of healthcare has reached phase 3 where Mid and South Essex has begun the co-production and codesign programme with clinicians, parents and children to work with the Community Collaborative (EPUT, North East London Foundation and Provide) to ensure children and their families receive appropriate care in a timely way and close to their home and community.

2. Action required

- 2.1 Members are asked to note:
 - The update and service improvements implemented in regard to the Lighthouse provision in South West Essex.
 - The continued codesign and partnership working with families to ensure service improvements are informed by family's needs and experience.
 - The ICB and EPUT contractual monitoring and Service Development and Improvement Plan has been approved and implementation has started with weekly monitoring of referral to treatment pathways and monthly service development meetings.
 - MSE ICS Strategy continues to support babies, children and young people as a priority area.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Lighthouse Child Development Centre provides community Children's services for the population of Castle Point and Rochford and Southend which has a children's population of 79,686 . Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation

Trust wrote to the CCGs on the 19th May 2021 informing them of their intention to cease provision and willingness to work collaboratively to transfer the service to another provider(s).

3.2 The CCGs and MSEFT worked with the Mid and South Essex Community Collaborative to arrange the transfer of the service to a safe and appropriate provider cumulating in the contract transferring to EPUT on the 1st March 2022.

3.3 The centre functions as a multi-agency facility for the benefit of children and their families. The environment is conducive to multi-agency working and supports the Team around the Child model of delivery. The services offered include:

- Multidisciplinary assessments and early support
- Developmental, behavioural and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) clinics
- Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, speech therapy
- Audiology services
- Assessments to support the Education Health and Care Plans and Initial Health Assessments for Children who are in the care of the Authority.

4. Update

4.1 EPUT staff continue to focus on improving the experience of families and children receiving the services delivered from the Lighthouse. There is continued commitment to working in partnership with stakeholders and listening to family's feedback.

4.2 Opportunities for families to be involved are offered through a variety of approaches including coffee morning events, staff visiting local clubs and charity organisations and establishment of the Lighthouse Family Panel. These continued to be shaped and supported by the Parent Carer Forums.

4.3 The feedback from families via the *I Want Great Care* approach has demonstrated this is having a positive impact with the scores demonstrating an upward trajectory.

4.4 However, challenges do remain regarding increased demand for specialist referrals and consequently long waiting times for some families. This is in line with nationally reported statistics for children's community services seen post the pandemic. The ICB, EPUT and NHSE are meeting weekly to track improvements in the referral to treatment pathways.

4.5 Additional funding has been provided by the ICB to ensure adequate resource is in place to address the backlog and to deliver the service improvement plan.

4.6 This has resulted in recruitment to additional staff to support skill mix approach and enhancing the multidisciplinary team for neurodiversity and specialist roles for children presenting with Tics and Tourette's.

4.7 EPUT continue to have dedicated resource for communication and engagement

or the Lighthouse improvement plan. This has resulted in codesigned information being available on the website to support families access services and to support families whilst waiting.

- 4.8 The service is now accepting referrals for young people aged 16-18 in line with the new criteria which addresses an historical gap in service.
- 4.9 There is greater integrated working with physical and mental health services. However there needs to be greater focus on working in partnership with local authorities to ensure the universal and graduated response for children and young people with special education needs provides support and earlier intervention.
- 4.10 There continues to be opportunities to develop wider transformation plan across Essex with initiatives such as the current ambitious redesign of Speech and Language, Occupational therapy, and Physiotherapy for children. Ensuring that communication, functional independence, and physical development is embedded in all parts of our system.
- 4.11 The continued pressure and focus on delivering ASD diagnosis is reported nationally and across Essex our 5 providers have established an agreed model of delivery based on the NHSE best practice guidelines and have aligned reporting. This has been informed and supported by a shared set of outcomes developed by parents and carers.
- 4.12 The system partners are working together through a number of forums to strengthen and ensure families and children with concerns around developmental and neurodivergent receive the support and care they require based on presenting needs. This is being facilitated through the Essex wide forums.
- 4.13 In the wider children's community context in addition to the opportunities and advancement mentioned in previous papers Mid and South Essex ICS has progressed in several other areas. These include:
 - The roll out of Mental health Support Teams for schools as part of wave 7 and 9 working in partnership with local schools and ECC education leads.
 - Additional resource from NHSE to develop specialist Epilepsy nurse role for ASD and Learning Disability.
 - Secured NHSE Early Years Funding for Oral Health and Hygiene
 - The development of a Post Diagnostic Neurodiversity digital offer in partnership with KIDS.
 - Establishment of a children health panel to support the strategic direction of the ICB.

5. **List of Appendices** – none