

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH/NHS OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC) HELD ON 29 JUNE 2016 AT 10:30 AT
COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD**

County Councillors present:

J Reeves (Chairman)	R Gadsby
D Blackwell	K Gibbs
K Bobbin	D Harris (Vice-Chairman)
P Channer	A Naylor
M Fisher	A Wood (Vice-Chairman)

Borough/District Councillors present: J Beavis (Braintree District Councillor)
M Sismey (Chelmsford City Councillor)

Also in attendance:

County Councillor S Barker, Deputy Cabinet Member for Healthy Living & Wellbeing (for agenda item 6, HOSC's Obesity Task and Finish Group report)

The following Officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Graham Hughes	- Scrutiny Officer
Fiona Lancaster	- Committee Officer

1. Apologies and Substitution Notices

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillors S Canning and R Howard, and Harlow District Councillor W Forman and Uttlesford District Councillor S Harris.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Wood declared a personal interest as a Governor of the North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEPFT), and his association with the local press regarding the Peter Bruff mental health ward at Clacton Hospital (minute 6 below refers).

Councillor P Channer declared a personal interest as a member of the Maldon Community Services and Community Hospital Project Board.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 June 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Mid and South Essex Success Regime

5(a) Overall Project Update

The Committee considered a report (HOSC/36/16) from Andrew Vowles, Programme Director, Mid and South Essex Success Regime, setting out an overall project update and the timetable of future work.

Andrew Vowles was accompanied by Dr Ronan Fenton, Medical Director of Mid Essex Hospital Trust, and Wendy Smith, Interim Communications Lead, Mid and South Essex Success Regime.

During the discussion the following was acknowledged, highlighted or questioned:

- (i) Detail on the main focus of the work streams and the timing of communication and engagement plans;
- (ii) The use of technology and what lessons had been learned from previous unsuccessful attempts to roll out a nation-wide system. Members noted the example given of how technology had moved on and how personal data had been available on a memory stick after the 2011 earthquake in New Zealand;
- (iii) How residents need to understand what is the most appropriate healthcare channel for their needs;
- (iv) The need for an Essex Health Champion to act as a single point of lead;
- (v) How care closer to home may be delivered, not necessarily by statutory bodies;
- (vi) The increased level of clinical staff involved with the 'In Hospital' work and the engagement with patients with an "In your shoes" event;
- (vii) Basildon and Thurrock, Mid Essex, and Southend Hospitals had agreed to work together and share a common Committee;
- (viii) The use of national guidance/rationale to provide better services;
- (ix) How emergency flow currently affects elective care and is unpredictable, and the case for clearly separating planned elective work from emergency care in future;
- (x) The benefits of having consolidated specialist services ie burns care unit at Mid Essex Hospital, to optimise resources. The need for positive messages to be given on why changes are happening and the advantages;
- (xi) The 'Out of Hospital' working group was focused on the role of volunteers and working with other care partners, including care homes and the CCGs;
- (xii) The possibility of training volunteers to provide more support to medical staff;
- (xiii) The reality that there will not be any new buildings/hospitals and that they will have to work with what they have;
- (xiv) Members noted the range of methods of engagement to be used;
- (xv) The importance of continuing to encourage prevention and extending the principles in 'Live Well' from Mid Essex to other areas.

5(b) Formal response to recommendations arising from the joint HOSC/ Healthwatch Essex Citizen Engagement Conference

During the discussion the following was acknowledged, highlighted or questioned:

- (xvi) The importance of good external communication to ensure that Essex residents understand what is happening now and can be engaged throughout the Success Regime process;
- (xvii) The aim to have a public consultation on proposals in October/November 2016, following agreement of a business case with NHS England. The need to ensure there is appropriate engagement across the districts and with the hard to reach groups. Members noted the intention to carry out pre-engagement work over the summer months;
- (xviii) The setting up of a Service User Advisory Group, with its first meeting on 8 July;
- (xix) There will be separate public engagement from user engagement;
- (xx) The use of an Equality Delivery System which helps understand and identify hard to reach groups.

The Committee **agreed**:

- (i) To recommend to the Success Regime Programme Director that a short summary leaflet to 'tell the story' be circulated to all Essex residents so that everyone is informed about the Success Regime;
- (ii) That HOSC be provided with more detailed evidence from the Success Regime team on their implementation plans in response to HOSC recommendations;
- (iii) That HOSC would establish Task and Finish Group(s) to examine the detail of specific Success Regime work streams, and explore the possibility of further joint working with Thurrock and Southend Councils;
- (iv) That the setting up of a Service User Advisory Group be encouraged.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

The Chairman thanked the contributors for their attendance and helpful update report and they left the meeting at this point.

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chairman adjusted the order of business to await the arrival of Councillor S Barker for agenda item 6.

6. North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEPFT) – Clacton Hospital

Councillor A Wood declared a personal interest in this item (minute 2 above refers).

The Committee considered a response (HOSC/38/16) from Christopher Butler, Interim Chief Executive of the North Essex Partnership Trust, on issues raised in relation to the Peter Bruff ward at Clacton Hospital during the public question time at the last HOSC meeting.

Members expressed concern that the five points raised in the HOSC Chairman's letter to NEPFT had not been fully addressed. The Committee **agreed** to the recommendation put forward by the Chairman that NEPFT should be requested to commission an Independent Review on these matters. In addition, the Scrutiny Officer was asked to invite Christopher Butler, Interim Chief Executive, Sam Hepplewhite, Chief Officer, North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, and Barbara Herts, Director for Commissioning Mental Health, to report on the issues raised.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

7. Report by HOSC Members on visit to St Helena Hospice

The Committee noted a report (HOSC/39/16) by Councillors M Fisher, D Harris and A Wood on their visit to St Helena Hospice, Colchester, on Thursday 2 June 2016.

Councillor M Fisher commented on the benefits to be gained for patients and families with a 'single point' of contact system.

Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the importance of undertaking such visits to gain an insight into the breadth of activities taking place within the voluntary sector.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

8. Joint Working with Safeguarding Boards

The Committee considered a report (HOSC/40/16) from the Scrutiny Officer regarding the opportunities for co-operation, joint working, and the sharing of information between the HOSC and the Safeguarding Boards, together with the copy of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Members commented that they would like the relevant officers identified as a point of contact in the MoU, and details on the recent appointment of a new Independent Chairman of the two Safeguarding Boards.

The Members **agreed** that the HOSC Chairman be authorised to agree and sign the final version of the MoU for and on behalf of the Committee in due course.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

9. HOSC's Obesity Task and Finish Group report

The Committee received a report (HOSC/37/16) from the Cabinet Members for Health, Education and Lifelong Learning, and for Corporate, Communities and Customers, in response to the HOSC's Task and Finish Group report recommendations on Obesity issues in Essex.

Councillor Susan Barker, Deputy Cabinet Member for Healthy Living & Wellbeing, was in attendance for this item, and supported by Adrian Coggins, Head of Public Health and Wellbeing Commissioning, and Jill Taylor, Senior School Meals Support Manager, Essex County Council.

During the discussion the following was acknowledged, highlighted or questioned:

- (i) Why evidence on good practice outside of Essex had not been included in the report, and being mindful of having accurate baseline data from the local districts;
- (ii) That some of the more affluent areas of the County were not taking full advantage of free school meals. Head Teachers needed to be encouraged to increase their uptake to benefit from pupil premium funding;
- (iii) Members acknowledged the "neutral" response to recommendation 19 as it would be partly impacted by the national childhood obesity strategy which was still awaited;
- (iv) That the Birmingham "Be Well" campaign had been brought back to Essex and had helped to shape the "Living Well" programme;
- (v) The new pilots underway in Braintree for children to live well and for school readiness, and examples of other activities underway in the Uttlesford district;
- (vi) That local district councils should also be talking about healthcare, and locality boards would be a useful place to keep health issues on the agenda;
- (vii) There were six jointly funded public health practitioners looking at local priorities, aligned to Essex County Council, and helping to drive improvements forward;
- (viii) The links with Mental Health and how this may be incorporated into the Braintree Live Well Child pilot;
- (ix) Presentations at school parent evenings include a reminder to parents to apply for free school meals to ensure that schools receive pupil premium if appropriate;
- (x) An example was noted on how primary school gardens were leading to healthier eating and cooking habits, and provided a calm environment outside of the formal classroom environment;
- (xi) The positive influence of the HOSC's Task and Finish Group report and confirmation from the Cabinet Members that the recommendations were agreed with and being put into place.

The Committee was pleased to note the response from the Cabinet Members as a result of its report.

The Committee **agreed** that:

- (i) The Task and Finish Group report would also be distributed to the Active Essex team;
- (ii) A review of the implementation of recommendations would be planned for March/April 2017;
- (iii) HOSC would receive an outcome report on the “Live Well Child” pilot in Braintree when available.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

The Chairman thanked the contributors for their attendance and input and they left the meeting at this point.

10. General Update

The Committee noted a report (HOSC/41/16) from the Scrutiny Officer outlining updates on local Clinical Commissioning Groups, Primary care change of provider matters, details on Care Quality Commission inspections for July to September inclusive, and forthcoming meeting dates for 2016 public meetings. He also reminded Members of the recent notification sent by email of the immediate temporary closure of Grafton Surgery on Canvey Island.

Councillor Wood commented that he had not yet received any further news on whether another Clacton GP Surgery was intending to close in September 2016.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

11. Quality Accounts

The Committee considered a report (HOSC/42/16) from the Scrutiny Officer providing a further update on Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments on draft Quality Accounts submitted to it by Essex health bodies.

The Committee **noted** the update, which included a copy of the response given to Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow).

12. Work programme

The Committee considered a report (HOSC/43/16) from the Scrutiny Officer setting out the Committee’s current work programme and the focus on Community Healthcare and Transformation of Services for the remaining space in the 2016/17 work programme.

The Committee also indicated that it would be helpful to receive an update on the integration arrangements between the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals.

The Chairman thanked Councillor R Gadsby for volunteering to join the Task and Finish Group looking at Mental Health Services for children and young people.

The report was otherwise **noted**.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Committee **noted** that the next meeting was scheduled to take place at **10.30 am** on **Wednesday 27 July 2016**, in Committee Room 1 at County Hall (preceded by a private pre-meeting for Members only at **9.30 am**).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.02 pm.

Chairman
27 July 2016