

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH AND WEST ESSEX AREA
FORUM ACCESS TO GP SURGERY TASK AND FINISH GROUP HELD ON
22 JUNE 2010 AT 10.00 AM AT BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL,
BASILDON**

Membership

Essex County Councillors:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| * Mrs Elizabeth Webster
(Chairman) | David Kendal |
| * Ray Howard (ex officio) | * Colin Riley |
| * Mrs Sandra Hillier | * Roy Pearson |

Essex County Councillor HOSC Representative

- * Cllr John Baugh

Borough and District Councillors

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Cllr Tony Archer | Basildon Borough Council |
| Vacancy | Brentwood Borough Council |
| Cllr Mrs L A Butcher | Rochford District Council |
| Vacancy | Castle Point District Council |

Parish Councillors

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Cllr. Assad Aly-Khan | BATPC |
| Vacancy | Parish Council |
| Vacancy | Parish Council |
| Vacancy | Parish Council |
- (* present)

Varsha Wright, Essex and Southend LINK,

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Vivien Door | Committee Manager, ECC |
| Colin Ismay | Governance Manager, ECC |
| Yvette Wetton | West Area Co-ordinator, ECC |
| Samantha Nicholson | Scrutiny Officer, Basildon Borough Council |

1. Membership of the Group

The membership of the Group was noted.

The Group **Agreed:**

- i) To extend the remit of the group to include Castle Point District Council and Parishes;
- ii) That the Committee Officer would contact the Districts and Parishes to obtain representatives to join the Group.

2. Apologies and Substitution Notices

Apologies were noted from County Councillor Kendall.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4. Scoping Document

The Task and Finish Group considered the Draft Scoping Document, AFWAGP/01/10. The Group discussed the Draft Scoping Document in conjunction with the response to the Sun Street Surgery, Waltham Abbey findings and recommendations, AFWAGP/02/10 for background information.

Background Information

Sun Street Surgery, Waltham Abbey

The Chairman and Councillor Baugh outlined the background information on the West Area Sun Street Surgery, Waltham Abbey Task and Finish Group. West Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) had received notification of the termination of the contract from Dr Lakha, the GP at the single handed practice in Sun Street. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee expressed concerns about the arrangements for the closure, the short timescales given to patients to re-register and the lack of information on the alternative surgeries.

Access to GP Services in South and West Area Forum areas

At the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 March 2010, the Committee Agreed that there seemed to be a problem or perception accessing GP services in Rochford, Basildon and Brentwood and a lack of investment within the Primary Care Trusts five year strategies. It was therefore decided to set up this task and finish group to investigate Access to GP Services and the PCTs strategies in regard to forward planning for when single handed GP surgeries closed.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- That the Group should open the remit to include Castle Point District Council;
- There was some good practice in Canvey Island with the new Health Centre which had amalgamated five GP surgeries;
- That although new Health Centres include a lot of health services within the one building some patients prefer to receive their health care from single handed GPs even if the building was difficult for users.

The Group **Agreed** to amend the Scoping Document to reflect the points at the meeting.

5. Identification of information required from NHS South East & South West Essex

The Group **Agreed** that the following information should be provided by South East and South West PCTs for the four districts:

- Numbers of GPs per capita;
- Number of premises not meeting accessibility criteria;
- Feedback from Patient surveys;
- Cross border activity;
- Response;
- 24/7 provision and the impact of avoidable A&E referrals/self presentation;
- To ensure that there was equity of access to services by investigating at the following:
 - Physical Access in respect of disability;
 - Transport and infrastructure including parking;
 - Access to GP appointments for patients;
 - Choice of GP surgeries;
 - Out of hours services.
- Maps for each District illustrating the following:
 - GP surgeries with different colours indicating single handed GPs, others and Health Centres would be useful;
 - A transport network map would be useful to see how accessible by public transport the GP surgeries were;
 - A map of Chemists/pharmacists.
- Quality of GP Services, minimum requirement of services.

6. Work Programme

The Group **Agreed** the way forward:

Background information

Background information should be requested from South East and South West PCTs covering the four districts.

Public Consultation

Each District and County Council should add an article regarding this review to their free newspaper, which was delivered to every home.

An electronic questionnaire could be placed on each Local Authority website asking for information.

A Public meeting should take place asking for views on individual's access to GP services.

Visits to GP Surgeries

Members would undertake visits, in two groups with a lead Member in each group, to some GP surgeries to speak to GPs and patients.

Witness Meetings

A range of Witnesses should be identified for future meetings.

Working with and sharing information with the LINKs

Information would be gathered from the reviews that LINKs have undertaken.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 6 October 2010 at 2.00 pm in Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

There being no urgent business, the meeting closed at 11.35 am.

Chairman