

## Personal Behaviours Arising from the pandemic

Reference Number: HOPSC/16/20

<b>Report title:</b> Personal Behaviours Arising from the pandemic	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 29 July 2020	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chairman and Lead Members have requested that the Committee start its review of the impact of the pandemic on local health services by looking at any changes to personal behaviours that are evident (such as changing trends in substance abuse, and mental health presentations). This introductory update is attached as described further below.

### 2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider:
- (i) this report and appendices and identify any issues and concerns arising;
  - (ii) next steps and potentially linking with future sessions with Acute trusts on emergency care seasonal planning and admission avoidance and, separately, with mental health providers on their future service planning;
  - (iii) any other aspects or concerns about the pandemic's impact on local services that may require future scrutiny.

### 3. Background

The agreed Scope agreed for this introductory item was as follows:

- Impact on pandemic and lockdown on personal behaviours and wellbeing (substance abuse, self-harm, mental health).
- How planning for it;
- Essential and resulting Public Health messaging.

Essex County Council officers primarily have supported the preparation of this item and provided the majority the update. However, whilst presentations are often at specialist treatment centres (such as for substance abuse), there may

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also still be presentations at A&E so each of the five acute hospitals in Essex have been requested to also provide data on presentations at their respective A&E which displayed substance abuse, self-harm and/or mental health issues. This information can then supplement the information on presentations being made in other settings. The information received from the acute trusts has also been included amongst the attached appendices.

In relation to mental health, there is also a summary of how ECC and key partners have driven the mental health response to Covid-19, as well as the impact experienced so far. It also outlines the plans being formulated for the future and how demand is expected to develop.

Essex County Council officers will be in attendance on the day to present this update.

### **4. Update and Next Steps**

See Appendices for update. See Action Required for next steps.

### **5. List of Appendices**

- A Covid and Public Health Power Point presentation from Mike Gogarty - Director, Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities;
- B How Public Health activity has changed/will need to change to respond to and mitigate impacts of Covid 19;
- C Briefing on the Public Health Commissioned Substance Misuse (Drug and Alcohol) System response to Covid-19;
- D Briefing on the mental health response to Covid-19
- E Colchester Hospital (part of East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust) – Excel spreadsheet with data on A&E presentations data;
- F Mid and South Essex Hospitals Foundation Trust - A&E presentations update dated 9 July 2020;
- G Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust - A&E presentations data.