

## HOPSC/23/19

**Committee** Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny

**Date** 24 July 2019

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### **A&E AND SEASONAL PRESSURES PLANNING AND ADMISSIONS AVOIDANCE**

Report by Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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#### **Recommendation:**

- (i) To discuss the updates given by representatives from the East of England Ambulance Service, the acute trusts in Essex and from Essex County Council.
  - (ii) To consider any follow-up work or investigation as identified during the discussion.
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#### **Background**

The Committee last considered this issue at its November 2018 meeting. A link to the meeting papers for that discussion is here – [HOSC November 2018 meeting papers](#) and final minutes of the discussion are loaded further down the web page after the meeting papers.

A scoping for this item was agreed with the Chairman/Vice Chairmen and JHOSC Lead Members and is reproduced below. Each of the invited attendees has been asked to respond to the relevant parts of it within their advance briefing reports:

Topic: A&E pressures, winter pressures planning and admission avoidance:

Attendees: Operational Director (or equivalent) from Acute Trusts, Operational reps from Ambulance Service, Essex County Council representative.

Lines of enquiry:

To understand the pressures faced in A&E and emergency departments during the winter of 2019/20;

To assess the success of the advance planning undertaken and lessons learnt.

To assess the extent of partnership working in continuing to address pressures (including admission avoidance).

To understand if the pressures are no longer specific to winter and any need for contingency planning at other times of the year.

Information requested from attendees (not all question/points are relevant for all the attendees – for example, the ambulance service was specifically asked those points starred):

Review of the advance winter planning, predicted demand and expectations and what actually happened\*

What worked well and what did not\*

Provide examples of partnership working – i.e. with acute trusts and County Councils.\*

To what extent are there changing demands on the ambulance service with the development of acute hub and spoke models.\*

Describe any admission avoidance work being undertaken with and without partners [it is planned to have someone from ECC at the meeting so will also hear what work the county council is doing on this].\*

Describe the discharge planning/process undertaken and what still are the key challenges with this.

Provide information on reasons for Delayed Transfers of Care (to include a breakdown of non-social care delays as well as those attributable to social care) and indicate any trends.

Provide information on the numbers of inappropriate A&E presentations with a further breakdown of how many are delivered by ambulance and indicate any trends.

Provide information on re-admissions – how classified and calculated and indicate any trends.

Provide commentary on to what extent are pressures no longer just seen in winter – or are there different pressures.\*

Any significant change in recruitment and vacancy rates/issues in A&E and Emergency Care since the November HOSC discussion and the success of actions being taken to address shortfalls and skill mix. [\* recruitment update also required from EEAS]

Handover times and delays at A&E\*

With Broomfield, Basildon and Southend Hospitals now operating under a single senior management structure in advance of a formal legal merger anticipated next year there is one joint report submitted for those three Trusts.

## **Information provided**

### Attachments:

1. Colchester Hospital update.
2. MSB Group (incorporating Mid Essex Hospitals, Southend and Basildon Hospitals) update **[paper to follow]**.
3. Princess Alexandra Hospital (Harlow).
4. East of England Ambulance Trust
5. Essex County Council