



Mid and South Essex
Success Regime

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Dear Colleague

Developing our options for the future pattern of hospital services in mid and south Essex

I am writing to let you know that today we are announcing a new development in our options for emergency care as we continue to think about how future hospital services could be organised and delivered in mid and south Essex.

We are developing our current options with more detail around how the emergency care pathway could work in the future. As part of this we believe the three current A&E departments at Basildon, Broomfield and Southend could continue to receive 'blue light' emergency patients with serious conditions. It would rule out the blanket redirection of all 'blue light' ambulances to Basildon, as outlined in our earlier work on this.

Our local clinicians, including the senior doctors responsible for emergency care in each of the three hospitals, have developed a clinical plan which would see the majority of local people get the specialist emergency care they need via their local A&E. Under this plan, in an emergency, patients would go to their local hospital A&E, be assessed, stabilised and treated there; and then either referred for further care; admitted for ongoing treatment; discharged; or transferred to a specialist team for treatment and care at another hospital, if that's what they need. The 'norm' would be for patients to go to their local hospital in an emergency.

As now, a small number of people who are very seriously ill would be taken by ambulance straight to a specialist centre to get the best treatment, for example, severe heart attack patients already go straight to the Cardiothoracic Centre at Basildon, or people suffering severe burns already go to the Plastic Surgery and Burns Centre at Broomfield in Chelmsford. Clinicians are looking in detail at the clinical evidence to see if there are other emergency conditions that may also require this approach – for example for severe vascular emergencies or upper gastrointestinal bleeds.

Previously, we have discussed with staff, stakeholders and local people the benefits of one hospital, possibly Basildon, providing the most serious emergency treatment directly, for patients in mid and south Essex. But, in the feedback from over 100 local discussion events, we have heard very clearly that some people have significant concerns about all 'blue light' ambulances going straight to Basildon. This new development of our options sees us addressing these concerns.

However, the aim still stands to develop specialist centres and to separate planned operations and treatments from emergency care. We know from national evidence that this can improve the quality of care and patients' chances of survival - particularly with very serious cases. We also want our three hospitals to work increasingly together, offering different specialist services at each of our sites. We know specialising in this way for those with the most serious conditions and illnesses gives better chances of recovery to our patients.

Over the next few months our clinicians will continue to do detailed work to develop our options and understand their impact on clinical outcomes and patient experience; our staffing needs; the numbers and types of patients needing our services; the financial requirements and so on.

We will also continue to gather feedback from our staff, stakeholders and local people, to make sure we develop the right proposals for mid and south Essex. We will then take our proposals to a full public consultation later this year, subject to national assurance, with no decision on the pattern of future services being taken until this has been completed. We will continue to brief you regularly and look forward to working in partnership with you.

We remain determined to find the very best solution for delivering excellent, safe, high quality hospital care, within our available funding, into the long-term for people in mid and south Essex.

Kind regards,



Clare Panniker
Chief Executive

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust
Mid Essex Hospital Services
NHS Trust
Southend University Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust



Dr Anita Donley OBE
Independent Chair

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