

**HOSC/22/11**

**Committee** Health Overview and Scrutiny

**Date** 1 June 2011

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**UPDATE ITEM**

Report by Graham Redgwell, Governance Officer

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The Committee is advised of the following issues arising since the last meeting:-

**Brentwood, The Brambles GP surgery**

This surgery is one of 10 currently managed by the PCT. The PCT wishes to divest itself of all ten by the end of 2011. It is a relatively small surgery and is located close to another surgery with a small patient list. Two options are possible (a) surgery goes through procurement process; or (b) patient list is dispersed (with opportunity to transfer to the other local surgery or to another surgery of the patient's choice).

Both options will be considered further and patients on the list at the Brambles consulted before a final decision is made by the PCT.

(Contact Carolyn Larson)

**Colchester GP provision**

With the major development of the Colchester Garrison, an opportunity has arisen to reuse the medical centre (which is being replaced on a new site). This is a well equipped building, built relatively recently, and the Borough Council wishes to let it to the PCT at a peppercorn rent. The premises will be able to accommodate two existing practices and all five GP practices in the area have been involved in discussions about transferring over. This is a one off cost effective opportunity to re-house two practices into purpose-built premises and provide a high standard improved and expanded service. The site will also provide more car parking than the practices can provide at present.

Those on the lists of interested practices are being kept informed of developments. If any move, there will be a straight transfer of the full patient list. Although several thousand people are involved, this cannot be seen as a substantial variation under the terms of health scrutiny legislation, as no individual will be losing a service.

(Contact Karen Fulcher)

### **Loughton GP led Health Centre**

This is the Centre in the West Essex PCT area which is open for 12 hours (8 am to 8 pm) and which may be accessed by patients not registered with the Centre. The level of use outside normal working hours has been less than 10% of that budgeted for by the PCT and most of that use has been by people already registered with other nearby surgeries. This is not cost effective or viable in the long term.

The operator of the premises and the PCT propose to close the surgery at 6.30 pm on three days a week. Here is a Walk In Centre in Harlow which is open until 10 pm each day, so the requirement for a facility to be available to the general public for at least 12 hours a day is still being met. The proposed change is being publicised widely in the area.

The surgery opening hours will still be longer than any other in the PCT area.

(Contact Tracey Manzi)

### **NHS Community Healthcare**

Interim arrangements have been agreed between NHS South East Essex and SEPT regarding the transfer of this community service provider. This is necessary whilst the formal transfer arrangements are being approved by MONITOR.

(Contacts Jo Apicella/ Nicky Hart)

### **NHS Future Forum**

The Chief Executives of Essex County Council and the North Essex PCT cluster have been appointed to serve on this Forum, which is overseeing the national, listening exercise on NHS reform. They represent the local government and health sectors rather than their individual authorities.

### **North Essex PCT cluster**

Management arrangements for a single executive for the three PCTs in North Essex have been confirmed. This will be in place until the new health structure comes into place (due in 2012/13). Locality links are seen as important and will be maintained, with a Director of Commissioning for each of the three areas.

(Contact Sheila Bremner)

### **Quality Accounts**

Following consultation with Committee members, the Secretary has responded to Quality Accounts submissions from:

- Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital Trust (BTUH)
- Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust (CHUFT)
- North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust ((NEPFT)

#### **South Essex Specialist Disability Learning Service**

In line with national guidelines and the recently agreed Regional Strategy, a move is being made towards providing more community services and reconfiguring in-patient services. The four beds at Dickens Close in Billericay will close, reducing the number of in-patient beds in Billericay from 18 to 14. Of these beds, five were already empty and demand can be met from the smaller number. All relevant stakeholders have been involved in discussions on this proposal.

#### **South Essex Functional Mental Health Rehabilitation Reconfiguration**

As the latest stage of moving services from being bed-based to being community-based, 36 beds in houses on the former Warley hospital site are to be closed. Ten beds in Laindon will remain open for in-patient rehabilitation needs. All relevant stakeholders have been involved in discussions on this proposal.

The proposals are supported by local clinicians and GP mental health leads

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