

## Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board held via Zoom at 10:00am on Wednesday 20 July 2020

### Present:

#### Board Members (Statutory)

Cllr John Spence	Essex County Council ( <b>Chairman</b> )
Dr Hasan Chowhan	North East Essex CCG
Dr Anna Davey	Mid Essex CCG
Dr Rob Gerlis	West Essex CCG (substitute for Dr Angus Henderson)
Dr Mike Gogarty	ECC (Director, Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities)
Cllr Louise McKinlay	Essex County Council
Cllr John Moran	Essex County Council
Deborah Potticary	Healthwatch Essex (substitute for Sam Glover)
Nick Presmeg	ECC (Executive Director for Adult Social Care)
Dr Kashif Siddiqui	Castle Point and Rochford CCG

#### Board Members (Other)

Tom Abell	Essex Acute Hospital Trusts (substitute for Clare Panniker)
Georgina Blakemore	Borough/City/District Councils (ECEA rep)
Paul Burstow	Independent Chair, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS
Cllr Graham Butland	Borough/City/District Councils
Cllr Peter Davey	Voluntary Sector (Essex Assn of Local Councils)
Ian Davidson	Borough/City/District Councils (ECEA Rep)
Nick Hulme	Essex Acute Hospital Trusts
Brid Johnson	Essex Mental Health and Non-Acute Providers
Jemma Mindham	Voluntary Sector (substitute for Lorraine Jarvis)
Sally Morris	Essex Mental Health and Non-Acute Providers
Will Pope	Independent Chair, Suffolk and North East Essex ICS
Mike Thorne	Independent Chair, Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership
Alison Wilson	Voluntary Sector
Simon Wood	NHS Commissioning Board Essex LAT Director

#### Co-opted Members

Jane Gardner	Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (substitute for Roger Hirst)
Deborah Stuart-Angus	Independent Chair, Essex Safeguarding Adults Board

#### Other Attendees

Tricia D'Orsi	Castle Point and Rochford CCG
Peter Fairley	Director, Strategy, Policy and Integration, Essex County Council
Dr Jane Halpin	Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS
Will Herbert	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Essex County Council
William Hooper	Senior Strategy Adviser, Essex County Council
Susannah Howard	Suffolk and North East Essex ICS
Anthony McKeever	Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership
Judith Dignum	ECC, Democratic Services Officer

## 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman commented on the ongoing nature of the Covid-19 crisis, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to begin to consider the longer-term consequences. He praised the many examples of effective collaboration and shared focus during the pandemic so far and expressed the hope that this would continue.

The Chairman placed on record his personal thanks to Board members and everyone concerned with promoting health and wellbeing in Essex.

## 2. Membership, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Board Members as follows:

Cllr Mark Cory	Borough, City and District Councils
Dr Sunil Gupta	Mid and South Essex CCG Joint Committee
Roger Hirst	Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (for whom Jane Gardner was substituting)
Clare Kershaw	Essex County Council
Lorraine Jarvis	Voluntary Sector (for whom Jemma Mindham was substituting)
Gavin Jones	Chief Executive, Essex County Council
Clare Panniker	Essex Acute Hospital Trusts (for whom Tom Abell was substituting)
Dr 'Boye Tayo	Basildon and Brentwood CCG

The Chairman welcomed Dr Jane Halpin, Lead Officer, Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS to her first meeting of the Board. He extended thanks on behalf of the Board to the two previous representatives of the ICS, Beverley Flowers and Iain MacBeath, for their contribution to the work of the Board.

Members noted the appointment of Dr Sunil Gupta to represent Mid and South Essex CCG Joint Committee. The Chairman expressed thanks to his predecessor, Dr Anand Deshpande.

## 3. Minutes: 29 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Board noted that, as there had been no formal meeting for some months, any previously agreed actions were to be considered closed.

## 4. Public Questions

None received.

## 5. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Group (HWB/08/20)

The Board ratified a recommendation agreed at the informal meeting of the Board on 20 May 2020 concerning the establishment of a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Group as a sub-group of the Board.

Members agreed that it was essential for the Group to link with other workstreams on post-Covid mental health and wellbeing care, including that being led by staff at Provide.

### Resolved:

That a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Group be established as a Sub-Group of the Board, with draft Terms of Reference as set out in the Appendix to report HWB/08/20.

### Action

Action	Lead / Comments
1. Ensure the Group links with other workstreams on post-Covid mental health and wellbeing care	Mike Gogarty

## 6. Essex Outbreak Plan (HWB/09/20)

The Board received for discussion and endorsement the Draft Outbreak Plan for Essex. The Chairman commended the Plan, stating that it was regarded as the best in the country.

The following main points arose from consideration of the report:

- It was confirmed that Essex had a good working relationship with Public Health England and was receiving the required level of Covid-19 data in a timely manner. Following a recruitment exercise, the local Test, Trace, Contain and Enable (TTCE) service now had sufficient capacity to cope with demand.
- Essex County Council was involved in information sharing to learn lessons from areas that had experienced a local surge in Covid-19 cases, including Leicester.
- The County Council was working closely with Borough, City and District Councils and was learning how best to involve their respective Public and Environmental Health teams.
- Some adjustment to communications processes would be helpful in order to ensure that relevant GPs and Borough/City and District Council Leaders were informed about local outbreaks. It was agreed that the Outbreak Engagement Board should determine the criteria for undertaking such communications (i.e. the minimum level of cases which constituted an 'outbreak').

- Preparations were ongoing to deliver the necessary capacity to accommodate the anticipated introduction of regular testing in clinical settings. The Chairman undertook to update Members on any significant developments with regard to this or other issues which occurred between Board meetings.
- Concern was expressed at inconsistencies in the current testing regime (for example, a requirement at some care homes but not others for visiting healthcare professionals to have been tested for Covid-19).

### **Resolved:**

That the Essex Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan, attached as an Appendix to report HWB/09/20, be endorsed subject to the following:

- Determination of criteria for alerting relevant authorities (City/District/Borough Councils, GPs etc) to significant increases in the number of local Covid cases; and
- Efforts to ensure that the testing regime is both consistent and appropriate.

### **Action**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead / Comments</b>
2. Outbreak Engagement Board to determine criteria for alerting relevant authorities (City/District/Borough councils, GPs etc) to significant increases in number of local Covid cases	Mike Gogarty
3. Significant Government or other updates on testing requirements received between meetings to be communicated to relevant stakeholders without delay	Mike Gogarty
4. Efforts to ensure that the testing regime is consistent and appropriate	Mike Gogarty

## **7. Learning from Covid (HWB/10/20)**

Based on a report by the Director for Strategy and Integration, the Board considered the main ways in which better working together had been achieved during the Covid-19 crisis and discussed how best practice could be maintained.

The Board expressed support for the report and agreed on the importance of locality and of effective collaboration at every level, achieved through the continued development of strong relationships between organisations. Acknowledging the need for change prompted by Covid, Members commented on the need to be both sensitive and rigorous in deciding what to adopt, adapt and abandon in future.

Reference was made to the following main points:

- In addition to the Essex Wellbeing Service, it was also important to involve the community hubs in discussions on how to build on achievements during Covid and strengthen links with primary care networks.
- It was agreed to involve the Healthcare Alliances in sharing learnings and identifying priority areas to be progressed (Resolution 2 below refers).
- There was a need to strengthen the 'Home First' approach to hospital discharges, in particular with regard to communication.
- The resilience of the voluntary and community sector was at risk due to factors including loss of funding. Action was needed to assess the support required to allow the Sector's significant contribution to continue.
- There was a need to monitor the impact of virtual healthcare consultations as they became embedded, particularly in terms of the lack of physical contact and the increased likelihood of conditions being presented at an advanced stage, often linked to the reluctance of older people to come forward with symptoms.
- It was agreed to send a briefing note to Members on the County Council's ongoing work with Newton Europe.

In closing, the Chairman asked Jemma Mindham to express thanks on his behalf to Essex CVS.

### **Resolved:**

1. That Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) be asked to identify and build on what has worked well within local alliances and at an Essex and STP level, with a report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.
2. That the Essex Tactical Co-ordination Group for Health and Care and the Healthcare Alliances be asked to share learnings across STPs and identify any priority areas for progressing together at a pan-Essex level.

### **Action**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead / Comments</b>
5. Report to September meeting on STP proposals on priority areas for progressing in partnership at a pan-Essex level	Peter Fairley /Board Secretary (to add to Forward Plan)
6. Send briefing note to Members on ECC's ongoing work with Newton Europe Ltd	Peter Fairley

## **8. Adjournment of meeting**

Upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Board agreed to a brief adjournment from 11.10 – 11.15am.

## **9. Preventing and mitigating the psychosocial impacts caused by the pandemic and economic shocks (HWB/11/20)**

The Board considered a report by Paul Burstow, Board Member and Independent Chair of Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS, which supported a discussion on the need to anticipate and respond to the cascade of compounding psychosocial risks triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and economic shocks. Noting that one impact of the pandemic was likely to be a negative shift in the wellbeing status of the whole population, Members sought to identify the main themes and where the Board could add the greatest value.

Following a lengthy and detailed discussion, a number of themes emerged:

- The likely effectiveness of addressing the situation through collaboration at local level, rather than waiting for national policy.
- The serious impact on young people and the BAME community.
- The range of mental health issues likely to require support, from a general loss of wellbeing to serious mental illness.
- The need to monitor the resilience of voluntary and community organisations in the light of potential funding changes, and to ensure that the Board was supporting them.
- The role of anchor organisations in increasing local employment and addressing issues of employability –due for consideration by the Essex Partnership Board.
- The need to provide support for NHS staff facing potential challenges from the public linked to delays in treatment for non-Covid conditions.
- The importance for the Board of retaining oversight of the issue, incorporating regular review of its current and future role in terms of influence and adding value.

It was also agreed that Members would receive a briefing from Mike Gogarty on the main actions and outcomes from the meeting held on Friday 10 July.

The Chairman and Mr Burstow thanked Members for their contributions. It was agreed that a coordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, should be convened to draw together the discussion on this and the following item (Wider determinants of health, minute 10 below refers), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would

be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda. A report on the outcome would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board/

### **Resolved:**

1. That a co-ordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, be convened to draw together the discussion on this and the following item (Wider determinants of health, minute 10 below refers), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda.
2. That a report on the outcome of the Group's work be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

### **Action**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead / Comments</b>
7. Send briefing note to the Board on the main actions and outcomes from the Mental Health Covid-19 meeting held on Friday 10 July.	Mike Gogarty
8. Determine how the Board will retain oversight of this issue, incorporating regular review of its current and future role in terms of influence and adding value.	Board Chairman and lead officers (agenda planning)
9. To convene a co-ordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, to draw together the discussion on this and the Wider determinants of health (minute 10), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda.	Mike Gogarty Add report to Forward Plan

Report on the outcome to be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

## **10. Wider determinants of health (HWB/12/20)**

The Board considered a report by the Director, Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities which supported a discussion on the key issues that will impact on health over the next few years and asked Members to consider and agree priorities for population health. As had been the case with previous agenda items, the focus was on identifying how the Board could add value.

An appendix to the report proposed a number of specific priorities and key issues for consideration, which were duly endorsed.

Members highlighted the following points:

- It was likely that the Board's role lay in influencing rather than delivery, and in driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda. Meetings should take a lead in encouraging, sharing practice and challenging each other (for example regarding social impact, social value, procurement and employment practice).
- Hard work would be required to ensure that positive innovations and developments became part of the system.
- It may be helpful to look to the data for suggestions as to potential areas of focus

It was agreed to convene a coordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, to draw together the discussion on this and the previous item (Preventing and mitigating the psychosocial impacts caused by the pandemic and economic shocks, minute 9 above refers), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda. A report on the outcome would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

**Resolved:**

1. That the wider impacts of Covid on Essex as set out in report HWB/12/20 and appendix be noted, together with its implications for public health and the wider determinants.
2. That a co-ordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, be convened to draw together the discussion on this and the previous item (Preventing and mitigating the psychosocial impacts caused by the pandemic and economic shocks, minute 9 above refers), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda.
3. That a report on the outcome of the Group's work be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.
4. That, if necessary, as a result of the outcome from 3 above, the Board reflect on whether the existing Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy remains fit for purpose.
5. That the likelihood of a recurrence of Covid-19 with a need for further preventative measures at the end of this calendar year be noted.
6. That the Board note the need for greater insight to understand Covid-19's impact on health inequalities and support a partnership approach to developing this work.

**Action**

**Action**

**Lead / Comments**

10. To convene a co-ordinating group, membership to include representation from key stakeholders, to draw together the discussion on this and the previous item (minute 9), agree a set of priorities for the Essex system and identify where Board involvement would be most beneficial in terms of ensuring that key priorities can be tackled and driving forward the health and wellbeing agenda.
- Mike Gogarty  
Add report to Forward Plan

Report on the outcome to be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

## 11. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan, including the addition of items as requested during the meeting, was noted. It was agreed that the collaborative approach to agenda planning, paused during recent months when the Board was meeting informally, should be reintroduced with effect from the November meeting.

### Action

Action	Lead / Comments
11. Re-introduce collaborative approach to agenda planning with effect from November Board meeting	Cabinet Adviser to Chairman

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 10.00am. It is expected that this will be an online meeting.

## 13. Urgent Business

The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following item of urgent business, on the grounds that there was a need to update the Board on recent developments regarding Covid-19 following recent publication of a report on current developments in pandemic planning.

### Covid-19 - Winter Preparations

Dr Mike Gogarty updated the Board on aspects of a recently published report commissioned by the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser. The report contained models illustrating the potential evolution of the virus during Winter 2020/21 based on various levels of the R value.

The following points arose:

- It was emphasised that the scenarios described in the report should be considered as possibilities rather than predictions
- Will Pope referred to other data on the same subject, which he undertook to share with Mike Gogarty.
- The key importance of continued social distancing was highlighted.
- There was a possibility that measures being taken to control Covid-19 may also control other viruses, thereby reducing the severity of any winter flu epidemic.

The report was **noted**.

#### **Action**

##### **Action**

12. Will Pope to share with Mike Gogarty alternative information on the issues covered by the Chief Scientific Officer's report, based on a different modelling system

##### **Lead / Comments**

Will Pope/Mike Gogarty

The meeting closed at 12.40pm

**Councillor John Spence**  
**Chairman**

**16 September 2020**