

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Committee	HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY – Delegated to the MID ESSEX AREA FORUM	
Topic	HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACROSS MID-ESSEX	Ref:AFM-SCR-01
Objective	To review health inequalities and provision of services to ensure equality of outcomes across the area of the Mid-Essex PCT, with particular reference to access and transport issues	
Reasons for undertaking review	The Area Forum meeting on 11th September 2009 received a presentation on health inequalities following which Members of the Forum raised some concerns over the ease of access and transport to health services.	
Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initial briefing to define scope</i> • <i>Task & Finish Group</i> • <i>Commission</i> • <i>Full Committee</i> 	<p>The Review will be undertaken by a Task & Finish Group representing all three tiers of local government as agreed at the meeting of the Mid Essex Area Forum held on 12th November 2009.</p> <p>Meetings will be held as necessary to consider the issues, speak to commissioners, service providers and patient representatives.</p> <p>The final report will be submitted to the Mid Essex Area Forum, followed by the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be ratified and then sent to the PCT for a full response to the recommendations and proposed actions.</p>	
Membership <i>Only complete if Task and Finish Group or Commission</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Pike (Chairman) • Essex County Councillors Bob Boyce, Sandra Hillier and Maureen Miller • One representative from each of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Braintree District Council (Councillor Tony Shelton) ○ Chelmsford Borough Council (Councillor Jean Murray) ○ Maldon District Council (Councillor Alison Warr) • One representative from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Parish/Town Councils (Heybridge Parish Councillor Lew Schnurr) ○ third sector organisations <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Judy Cuddeford, Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Lorraine Jarvis, Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Services,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Paul Murphy, Maldon Council for Voluntary Services,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a representative from Mid Essex LINK</p> 	

Issues to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality of health outcomes • The patient experience • Access issues • Transport issues, including comparisons with similar mixed rural/urban area • Plans for decentralisation of services • Cross-border service provision both inter and intra Essex • Partnership delivery of services
Sources of Evidence and witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCT representatives & nominees • Local Medical Committee • Royal College of Nursing • AGE UK and other appropriate voluntary sector organisations • District Youth Councils • Resident Associations • LINKs • PALs <p>A letter to be sent to potential witnesses and a press release issued inviting interested groups and members of the public to provide oral and/or written evidence.</p>
Work Programme <i>(see attached timeline)</i>	<p>1st meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Mid Essex requested to provide the following background information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Up-date on health inequalities ○ Waiting times for access to services ○ Cross border patient flows to GPs, Community & Acute hospitals ○ Transport issues from a PCT perspective. • Development of a work programme
Indicators of Success	<p>A greater understanding of the issues facing NHS Mid-Essex and its partner organisation in delivering equality of health outcomes and accessibility to services.</p> <p>Recommendations as to how services can co-operate even further to tackle these issues.</p>
Meeting the CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect Public Voice & Concerns – equality of access to health services is a matter of concern to local residents • Impact on service delivery - Consideration of the provision of health services to patients living in Mid Essex and diverse needs of residents across Mid-Essex. • Own the Scrutiny Process – To make recommendations on procedures for ensuring equality of outcomes

Diversity and Equality <i>Diversity and Equality issues are to be considered and addressed.</i>	<p>To ensure that all patients have an opportunity to feed into this review including those within harder to reach groups.</p> <p>To review the access to services for the diverse populations of Mid Essex</p>		
Date agreed by Committee	<p>Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 6 January 2010</p> <p>Mid Essex Area Forum – 11 January 2010</p>		
Future Action			
Governance Officer	Colin Ismay, Governance Manager	Committee Officer	Graham Hughes
Area Co-ordinator	John Zammit		
Service Lead Officer(s)	NHS Mid Essex		