

**Minutes of the meeting of the Informal Essex Health and Wellbeing Board held at 10:00am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - online via Zoom**

**Present:**

**Board Members (Statutory)**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Cllr John Spence   | Essex County Council ( <b>Chairman</b> )                                  |
| Dr Hasan Chowhan   | North East Essex CCG  |
| Cllr Peter Davey   | Essex Association of Local Councils                                       |
| Cllr Beverley Egan | Essex County Council  |
| Dr Rob Gerlis      | West Essex CCG  |
| Dr Mike Gogarty    | Essex County Council (Director, Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities) |
| Nick Presmeg       | Essex County Council  |
| Cllr Mike Steel    | Essex County Council  |

**Board Members (Other)**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cllr Graham Butland   | Borough/City/District Councils  |
| Ian Davidson          | Borough/City/District Councils (ECEA Rep)                               |
| Professor Mike Thorne | Independent Chair, Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership      |
| Elizabeth Wells       | Essex Mental Health and Non-Acute Providers (Substitute for Paul Scott) |
| Alison Wilson         | Chief Executive, MIND in West Essex, Voluntary Sector                   |
| Samantha Glover       | Healthwatch Essex   |
| Dr Anna Davey         | Chair, Mid Essex CCG  |
| Professor Will Pope   | Independent Chair, Suffolk and North East Essex ICS                     |

**Co-opted Members**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Roger Hirst | Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex |
|-------------|---|

**Other Attendees**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| William Hooper   | Senior Strategy Adviser, Essex County Council  |
| Anthony McKeever | Partnership Executive Lead and Joint Accountable Officer for Mid and South Essex CCGs            |
| Peter Wightman   | Managing Director (West Essex), Hertfordshire and West Essex CCG (Substitute for Dr Jane Halpin) |
| Susannah Howard  | Suffolk and North East Essex ICS   |
| Will Herbert     | Essex County Council   |
| Ian Tompkins     | Director of Corporate Services, West Essex CCG   |
| Maggie Pacini    | Consultant in Public Health, Essex County Council  |
| Marimba Carr     | Speciality Registrar in Public Health, Essex County Council                                      |
| Clare Panniker   | Chief Executive, Essex Acute Hospital Trusts   |

**Apologies:**

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Boye Tayo | Chair, Basildon and Brentwood CCG |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| David Archibald      | Independent Chair/Facilitator, Essex Safeguarding Adults Board         |
| Juliet Beal          | East of England Ambulance Service                                      |
| Deborah Stuart-Angus | Independent Chair, Essex Safeguarding Adults Board                     |
| Clare Kershaw        | Director of Education, Essex County Council                            |
| Lance McCarthy       | Chief Executive Officer, Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust         |
| Chris Martin         | Director, Strategic Commissioning & Policy (C&F), Essex County Council |

### **1. Minutes and progress report on actions arising: 24 November 2021**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record and a progress report on the agreed actions was noted.

As the meeting was held an informal meeting, the minutes will still need to be formally agreed and signed at the next in-person meeting on 16 March 2022.

### **2. Questions from the Public**

There were no public questions

### **3. Verbal Updates**

#### **Covid in Essex**

The Board received an update from Mike Gogarty on the latest position on Covid.

Key points included:

- Since the last meeting the Omicron variant has been widespread;
- While there have been pressures on hospitals, it has not reflected previous waves;
- Hospital admissions have been receding and bed numbers are falling in most areas;
- The high number of care home outbreaks was not translated into many people falling seriously ill;
- It was thought that there would, in time, be a move to a polyvalent, broad-spectrum vaccine which will be effective against several different variants at once.

#### **Social Care Update**

The Board received an update from Nick Presmeg on the latest position on Adult Social Care.

Key points included:

- The pressures had generally improved since the service saw an all-time high with inability to place care and providers handing back packages of care; There were pressures regarding workforce, prevalence of vaccination and cost to providers, driven by general inflation and competition in the wage

market. There were then improvements with an increase of packages being picked up more rapidly and fewer being handed back.

- The publication of an integrated white paper was to be expected within the next three weeks;
- There was clearer detail on what the CQC assurance would entail for Adult Social Care;
- New guidance from the national discharge group on best practice was expected, this will be shared with the Board;
- The North-East Essex Alliance will be making a joint appointment across NHS and local government;
- Work was done with system partners to review the impact of the removal of the hospital discharge fund from the Essex system. There will be approximately £35m of funding lost across Essex;

### **Integrated Care Systems/Health and Care Partnership**

The Board received and **noted** updates from the ICSs and HCP as set out below, focusing particularly on progress towards recovery from Covid. Key points included:

#### **Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS: Peter Wightman**

- Operationally there were improvements in staff absences related to covid and isolation, but there continued to be a pressured situation with gradual improvement;
- Planned care had some of the largest waiting lists. The three hospitals worked closely on possibilities for what improvements could be made;
- There had been some improvement in the level of staff absences related to covid, but this continued to be a challenge

#### **Mid and South Essex HCP: Anthony McKeever**

- The process to appoint to the new ICS, under the leadership of NHS England and Chair, Mike Thorne, had commenced. Most employees would take up post within the coming month;
- Work with local authority partners to review arrangements for making appointments to alliances was ongoing;
- The system was under pressure and experiencing the highest level of escalation at the moment, Opel 4;
- Anthony McKeever paid tribute to the good work that was done under the SCG and tactical group that Nick Presmeg chaired, which enabled different agencies in parts of Essex to work harmoniously;

#### **Suffolk and NE Essex ICS - Susannah Howard**

- The appointment process for non-executive and executive members of the new ICB board was in full swing;
- Workshops seeking to co-produce plans for the ICS had been paused over the Christmas and new year period but would resume on 4th February;
- The next ICS board would discuss work by Healthwatch on the experiences of people accessing screening services;
- A task and finish group was currently reviewing how people with long covid are being supported;

- A system learning report had been produced and shared regarding equalities and the vaccination programme.

### **Acute Hospitals - Clare Panniker**

- There was still considerable pressure on acute hospitals due to the Omicron variant, despite cases having halved. January had seen a heavy demand on services whilst the hospitals tried to restore and fulfil an elective programme;
- There continued to be high levels of staff sickness due to the virus;
- Work to ensure ambulances had appropriate offloading plans in place, and did not hold up other ambulances, had been effective, however, some sites were struggling at various points to ensure timely off-loading;
- Southend was struggling to discharge patients in a timely manner due to pressures in domiciliary care, as well as volumes and staff sickness;
- The situation was described as being like most Januarys but with added covid pressures and infection control impacting productivity;
- The visiting hours were stepped down due to the high level of visitor transmission but visiting for end-of-life patients or patients with dementia remained.

### **Mental Health in Essex – Elizabeth Wells**

- Acute settings were in Opal 3 over autumn / winter and extremely pressured across December and January due to Omicron and staff sickness. Contingency plans were put into place such as deploying some community nurses onto wards. There were virus outbreaks on the wards but there was good infection control management;
- There had been progress with delayed transfer of care (DTC). The data in Essex was low compared to other mental health providers. Out of area placements were also decreasing.

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Action by</b>    | <b>Deadline</b>     |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Confirm the position regarding hospital visiting  | Peter Wightman      | By the next meeting |
| Schedule a report / presentation to a future HWB meeting from Roger Hirst, ref. the work taking place at the Violence and Vulnerability Board.<br>(NB – there is also a piece of work to develop links between this and the ICSs to ensure a shared agenda) | Democratic Services | By the next meeting |
| Provide feedback to Mike Gogarty on the document circulated after the informal meeting of 19 January ref. HWB review (even if the feedback is simply providing assent)  | All                 | 2 Feb               |

**4. Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan 2021-22**

Members noted the content of the Forward Plan. The Chairman emphasised that the Board should be considering agenda items proposed and initiated by all partners and he called for suggestions accordingly.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

It was **noted** that the next meeting of the Board would take place on **16 March 2022** in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The informal meeting closed at 11:00

**Further attendees joined the meeting at 11:00 to partake in the workshop****Workshop attendees:****Present:**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Adrian Coggins             | Essex County Council  |
| Amber Nyoni                | Public Health Practitioner, Chelmsford City Council                 |
| Ben Hughes                 | Essex County Council  |
| Caroline Elisas-Stephenson | Head of Housing and Communities, Braintree District Council         |
| Cllr Ann Davidson          | Chelmsford City Council   |
| Cllr Arthur Williams       | Rochford District Council   |
| Cllr Lynda McWilliams      | Tendring District Council   |
| Cllr Peter Tattersley      | Braintree District Council  |
| Fabrizio Ferrari           | Public Health Practitioner, Epping Forest District Council          |
| Faye Marriage              | Senior Health Improvement Practitioner, Uttlesford District Council |
| Fiona Gardiner             | Uttlesford District Council   |
| Gill Wallis                | Epping Forest District Council                                      |
| Grant Taylor               | Basildon Borough Council  |
| Jason Fergus               | Essex County Council  |
| John Fox                   | Tendring District Council   |
| Joan Ogiugo                | Public Health Apprentice, Chelmsford City Council                   |
| John Macpherson            | Maldon District Council   |
| Kim Anderson               | Brentwood Borough Council   |
| Laura Taylor-Green         | Essex County Council  |
| Paul Brookes               | Chelmsford City Council   |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sarah Alderton     | Public Health Practitioner, Castlepoint Council |
| Scott Danielsen    | Senior Researcher, Colchester Council           |
| Cllr Terri Sargent | Basildon Borough Council                        |
| Tracey Perry       | Braintree Council                               |
| Vicky Davies       | Brentwood Borough Council                       |

## 6. Workshop

Informal workshop, with the HWB members and other external partners, specifically members of the district Health and Wellbeing forum to consider and discuss the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex.

## 7. Break-out rooms

Feedback was given by each group leader on discussions and actions held in the breakout sessions, these are attached at Appendix 1.

| Action  | Action by                  |
|---|----------------------------|
| Cllr Spence and Peter Davey to discuss the consistency of engagement from Parish Councils   | Will Hooper                |
| Breakout room facilitators to collate actions from their individual rooms and submit to Mike Gogarty / Laura Taylor-Green for distribution to the wider group | Breakout room facilitators |

**Councillor John Spence  
Chairman**

