

Report title: Community Children's Services – South East Essex	
Report to: Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Helen Farmer, Interim Director for Children and Young People and Learning Disabilities, Mid and South Essex Clinical Commissioning Group	
Date: 9 February 2022	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager - richard.buttress3@essex.gov.uk or Jasmine Carswell, Democratic Services Officer - jasmine.carswell@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the current position and proposed arrangements for the safe transfer of South East Essex Community Children's services currently provided by Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSEFT) within the Lighthouse Child Development Centre to Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) during March 2022.
- 1.2 During 2022 MSE Health Care Partnership will also commence a co-design programme with all key stakeholders to continue to transform Childrens Community services to ensure children and families receive appropriate care in a timely way and close to their home and community.

2. Action required

- 2.1 Members are asked to note:
 - i) The planned transfer of service provision for South East Essex Community Children's Services to Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) during March 2022.
 - ii) Plans to commence on a co-design programme to further transform Community Children's Services across Mid and South Essex Health Care Partnership Integrated Care System.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Lighthouse Child Development Centre provides community Children's services for the population of Castle Point and Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Southend CCG (79,686 children for South East Essex in total).
- 3.2 The Lighthouse Centre is a bright, modern, child and parent friendly purpose-built venue. The centre provides services for children up to the age of 16. The service provides specialised outpatient care for those with significant delay in more than one area of development and have or are likely to require the support from more than one secondary agency, service or discipline.
- 3.3 The centre functions as a multi-agency facility for the benefit of children and their families. The centre provides an environment that is conducive to multi-agency working and supports the Team around the Child model of delivery.

The services offered include:

- Multidisciplinary assessments and early support
- Developmental, behavioural and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) clinics
- Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, speech therapy
- Audiology services
- Assessments to support the Education Health and Care Plans and Initial Health Assessments for Children who are in the care of the Authority.

- 3.4 There have been significant challenges to some areas of service delivery over the years primarily through workforce issues including long term sick leave, recruitment, and retention.
- 3.5 Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust wrote to the CCG on the 19 May 2021 informing them of their intention to cease provision and willingness to work collaboratively to transfer the service to another provider(s).
- 3.6 Out of scope are the other services provided from The Lighthouse, including audiology, speech and language therapy, specialist school nursing, specialist health visitor, the Play and Parenting Advisor service and the toy library which are commissioned by Local Authority, Public health and EPUT.
- 3.7 In response the CCG has been working closely with the Community Collaborative, formed of EPUT, Provide and NELFT, to develop a solution which will address the current challenges faced by the service and offer a longer-term sustainable commissioning model. EPUT currently deliver a range of wider children's community services and aligning this provision offers the opportunity to maximise integration and offer a seamless and coordinated care for children and families.
- 3.8 During the review of the current service provision immediate action was taken to extend service provision to 18 years old, with sufficient resources put in place to support this change in service model.
- 3.9 Throughout the transfer process information has been shared with key stakeholders and weekly meetings held with Southend and Essex Parent Forum for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to ensure effective engagement at this time. Although this is an anxious time for staff, stakeholders and families the response has been a positive one, welcoming this opportunity to improve service provision.

4. Update and Next Steps

- 4.1 Following the safe transfer of services to EPUT the Health and Care Partnership will continue to work together with the Community Collaborative to improve the quality-of-service provision for children and young people and their families across all current NHS providers including EPUT, North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) and Provide. The outcome of this work would be to:
- Reduce unwarranted variation in outcomes and access to services
 - Reduce health inequalities
 - Build greater resilience across the system
 - Coordinate the challenges to workforce recruitment, retention, Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
 - Consider consolidation of low volume and highly specialist services

- Deliver efficiencies through economies of scale
- Effectively coproduce and codesign with children and young people and their families
- Greater integration of services both across the health economy and with wider agency partners.

5. List of Appendices – none.