

<b>Report title:</b> Chairman's Report	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager	
<b>Date:</b> 2 December 2020	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This is the latest update reporting on discussions at HOSC Chairman's Forum meetings (Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Lead JHOSC Member).

**2. Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and identify any issues arising.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Forum usually meets monthly in between scheduled Committee meetings to discuss work planning. In addition, there are also meetings with the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care on a bi-monthly basis and quarterly meetings with senior officers.

**4. Update and Next Steps**

- 4.1. The Forum met virtually on 30 October 2020 and discussed two matters; Interpreting Services and the procurement of Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Service (EWMHS) contract.

Interpreting Services

An informal discussion was held with Fiona Theadom, Senior Contract Manager, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) on the intention to extend interpreting and translation services for Primary Care to include pharmacies and optometry services. Interpreting services are mainly used by GP services, which include both telephone and sign language services.

A new contract was commissioned in April 2019 and research to see what services are currently provided in Essex was undertaken. It was concluded that it seemed sensible to have an East-wide interpreting service contract for Primary Care to ensure it is consistent across the region, as the current process for services varies across the County. The aim of this work is to ensure all patients have equal access across Essex. The contract will cover all for primary

care groups from April 2021.

The engagement carried out previously in 2018 was not as robust as it could have been and with this in mind, the engagement process this time includes asking for feedback from health scrutiny committees and other key stakeholders. Any comments will be fed into the feedback specification.

Members were asked to consider any local issues they would like to address as part of the engagement process and as a result, the Forum **agreed** that this item be formally presented to the HOSC at its December 2020 meeting.

#### EWMHS

EWMHS is serviced via a Commissioning Forum to the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT).

A paper is being prepared for Cabinet in January 2021 on the procurement of a contract and the Cabinet Member has invited feedback from a scrutiny perspective, which will be included as an appendix to the final report in January 2021. At this stage, it is not intended to appoint a provider but instead agree to enter into procurement arrangements.

A further discussion was had around which scrutiny committee this was best presented to, either HOSC or PAF and the Forum **agreed** that as the discussion at this time is not intended to be health focussed but more contract based, it will be presented to PAF at its December 2020 meeting.

The Chairman of PAF, Cllr Jenny Chandler, extended an invitation to members of HOSC to attend and are welcome to ask questions.

The Forum were also made aware that EWMHS was changing back to CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service).

## **5. List of Appendices – none**