

Report title: Update from Essex Social Care	
Report to: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board	
Report author: Nick Presmeg	
Date: 18 th May 2022	For: Noting
Enquiries to: Nick Presmeg	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is provided to the Essex County Council Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a short written update on Social Care in Essex.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is asked to note to update.

3. Update on Essex Social Care

Essex social care is operating at LAPEL 3 (local authority pressures escalation level), which means we continue to face significant operational challenges. Key operational pressure points include a high number of safeguarding concerns coming to the Council to look into; operational backlogs of reviews; and ongoing challenges in the sourcing of home care capacity within the market. There has, however, been some improvement such as a reduction in care home outbreaks and greater workforce availability as covid cases continue to fall.

A new All-Age Carers Strategy has been produced following consultation and is being published in May 2022.

Work is underway on a Market Shaping Strategy and a fair cost of care exercise, a significant piece of work that is expected to conclude in the autumn.

The recent passing of the Health and Care Act means that there is a significant amount of change that adult social care in Essex (as elsewhere) needs to prepare for, including:

Update from Essex Social Care

1. The establishment of new statutory integrated care systems from July 2022
2. The introduction of a new inspection regime for local authorities in respect of our adult social care duties (expected to start from April 2023); and
3. The introduction of major reforms to social care charging and new duties towards private funders (expected to start from October 2023)

The Government is also consulting on proposed changes to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice and implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards, which the Council needs to prepare for.