

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,  
held virtually via video conference on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at  
10:30am**

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**Present**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Jillian Reeves (Chairman)     | Cllr June Lumley                                      |
| Cllr Anne Brown                    | Cllr Bob Massey                                       |
| Cllr Jenny Chandler                | Cllr Clive Souter                                     |
| Cllr Tony Edwards (Harlow DC)      | Cllr Mark Stephenson                                  |
| Cllr Beverley Egan (Vice-Chairman) | Cllr Carole Weston (Substitute for Cllr Mike Steptoe) |
| Cllr Dave Harris                   | Cllr Andy Wood (Vice-Chairman)                        |

**Apologies**

Cllr Mike Steptoe

**Other Members**

Cllr John Baker

Cllr Mark Durham

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The following officers were supporting the meeting:

Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager

Sophie Campion, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Membership, apologies and declarations**

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Mike Steptoe (substituted by Cllr Carole Weston)

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Interest</b>  |
|--------------------|--|
| Cllr Beverley Egan | Cousin is the Managing Director of the Basildon Hospital Trust |
| Cllr Bob Massey    | Governor at EPUT   |

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 were approved by the committee as an accurate record, subject to the following two amendments:

- Minute 1 - The Declaration of Interest recorded for Cllr Edwards was incorrect and would be removed.
- Minute 5 – It was resolved that performance reports would be received by the HOSC on a monthly basis, rather than a quarterly basis.

### **3. Questions from the public**

No questions from members of the public were received.

### **4. A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance - updates**

The Committee considered report HOSC/31/20 comprising of a briefing from the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAH), the East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) and the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSEFT).

The Committee received the following updates;

Stephanie Lawton, Chief Operating Officer, PAH NHS Trust covering the following key issues:

- Emergency Care Update
- Restoration of services and winter planning
- COVID-19; impact of COVID-19 on services, staff support and testing and Cancer Services.

Alison Power, Director of Operations, ESNEFT covering the following key issues:

- Emergency Care Services at Colchester Hospital; Urgent Treatment Centre, Emergency Department and Acute Medical Same Day Emergency Care
- Lessons learnt from COVID-19 pandemic
- Bed Capacity Planning.

Samantha Goldberg, Chief Operating Officer, MSEFT covering the following key issues:

- Emergency Department Flows & Hospital Admission Avoidance
- MSE and system programmes
- Preparation and support for winter/COVID-19 demand
- Urgent Emergency Care.

During the discussion the following key points were noted:

- The Trusts were all confident in the planning for winter pressures and were focussed on supporting staff and working collectively in the context of added pressures from COVID-19 to provide services
- Issues with recruitment and retention within the hospital settings had improved, however there remained issues with primary care GP recruitment in particular areas
- There was improved testing for patients for COVID-19 in hospital and ahead of discharge, assisting in improving the patient flow
- It was confirmed that the Flu Vaccination programme was progressing at the Trusts

- Concern was raised regarding communications to the public during this period, particularly regarding ensuring that residents continue to access services where required, following a decrease in the number of referrals. It was **Agreed** that assurance would be sought that the County Council was working together with the health services regarding communicating key public health messages with residents.

After discussion, it was **Resolved** that:

- (i) An update from the Hospital Trusts would be provided on A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance in the New Year
- (ii) Additional information from ESNEFT would be provided on:
  - a. Ambulance conveyancing – result of audit
  - b. Funding for CCG early intervention vehicles
  - c. Mitigating actions being taken to address higher levels of mortality in deprived areas relating to preventable conditions
- (iii) Due to a technical issue during the discussion, any further questions from Members for the MSEFT would be forwarded to the trust via the Democratic Services Manager.

## 5. Chairman's Report

The Committee considered and noted report HOSC/32/20.

## 6. Member Updates

The Committee considered and noted report HOSC/33/20.

An update on the progress of the Joint HOSC Task and Finish Group work would be requested.

Councillor Wood agreed to feed back to the Committee on the discussion on Suicide Prevention due to take place at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 18 November 2020. It was **Agreed** that this item would be added to the next meeting of the Committee.

## 7. Work Programme

The committee considered report HOSC/34/20 the current work programme was noted by the committee.

The following issues were identified for consideration at the December meeting:

- Mental Health Services Update
- Update on interpreting services – tender for new contract in the East of England for the NHS
- North East CCG Community Beds proposal
- Suicide Prevention.

It was requested that the Autism Services Report in the new year, includes details of the number of people affected by this condition across Essex and the impact of the pandemic on children's services.

It was **Resolved** that the following issues would be included in the Committee's Work Programme:

- (i) Briefing from the CCG's regarding GP Provision across Essex in February 2021, to include historic trends and data by division
- (ii) Update from the Hospital Trusts regarding A&E pressures, seasonal planning and admission avoidance

**8. Date of next meeting**

To note that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 10:30am. Members were requested to reserve the whole day in their diaries for this meeting.

**9. Urgent business**

No urgent business was received.

**10. Urgent exempt business**

No urgent exempt business was received.

The meeting closed at 12.38pm.

**Chairman**