

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee,  
held virtually via video conference on Thursday 2 September 2021 at 10:30am**

**Present**

Cllr Jeff Henry (Chairman)	Cllr Carlie Mayes (Maldon District Council)
Cllr David Carter (Harlow District Council)	Cllr Bob Massey
Cllr Paul Gadd	Cllr Jaymey Mclvor
Cllr Ian Grundy (substitute)	Cllr Anthony McQuiggan
Cllr Dave Harris	Cllr Clive Souter
Cllr Luke Mackenzie	

**Apologies**

Cllr Martin Foley	Cllr Mike Steptoe
Cllr June Lumley	

---

The following officers were supporting the meeting:

- Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager
- Jasmine Carswell, Democratic Services Officer

**1. Membership, apologies and declarations**

Apologies were received from Cllr's Foley, Lumley and Steptoe.

Cllr Grundy substituted for Cllr Lumley.

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chairmen**

Having been moved by Cllr Souter and seconded by Cllr Massey it was **resolved** that Cllr Harris was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Having been moved by Cllr Mackenzie and seconded by Cllr Massey it was **resolved** that Cllr Souter was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 were approved by the committee as an accurate record.

**4. Questions from the public**

No questions from members of the public were received.

**5. East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust – Maternity Services**

The Chairman welcomed Nick Hulme, Chief Executive of East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) to the meeting, to provide an update on

how the Trust is progressing with implementing the recommendations put forward by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in March/April 2021.

The Committee received the following update:

Nick Hulme, Chief Executive, ESNEFT covered the following key issues:

- Concerned by the challenge currently facing maternity services and welcome the CQC report
- Made the Committee aware that the reports talk about the possibility of harm to women or babies, not actual harm
- Have taken the approach to create Every Birth Every Day approach. A Member from ECC will be invited to join the board. Two meetings have been held so far. Next meeting will set SMART objectives
- Difficult period five years ago due to the number of regulators becoming involved in their own agenda, rather than focussing on what patients needed
- At the moment, there is no risk to women or children. Issues around governance and leadership which if left, create a clinical risk
- There have been changes in leadership – a new Director of Midwifery has been appointed
- Acknowledged the comments made by the Committee around layout of report submitted as part of the agenda, and did not feel it would have benefited the Committee to reproduce the CQC report, but noted the comments
- The Trust fully accepts the recommendations in the CQC report
- Difficulties experienced at Colchester Hospital were in part due to adhering to CQC comments instead of residents.

During the discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Committee felt the report from ESNEFT was defensive and needed to read the CQC reports to fully understand what the issues were that are being addressed. More detail could have been provided in the summary box
- The CQC ratings are as follows: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate
- Committee would like to understand the Trusts action plan
- Concerns around leadership are being addressed – an officer has been employed full-time to look at the culture of ESNEFT. Staff have accepted they have responsibility around the solution as well.
- £2.5m investment has been made in new staff, although solution is not just money, people need to want to come and work at the hospital
- ESNEFT needs to be an attractive place to attract people
- The size of ESNEFT helps attract people – can offer more flexibility
- It is encouraging that student midwives who completed their training with ESNEFT then stay on and work there afterwards
- It is important to offer a community setting for women who have risks
- Immediate process issues have been addressed already, longer term issues around culture are more difficult to measure

- Government have made 8000 midwifery positions available – takes approximately four years to complete training. ESNEFT will make sure they get their fair share of these positions.

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

- i) Details of plan relating to Every Birth Every Day will be shared with the Committee
- ii) Cllr Dave Harris was nominated by Cllr Bob Massey to sit on the Every Birth Every Day board
- iii) Open invitation for Committee to visit ESNEFT

## 6. Care Homes Closures research

The Chairman welcomed Kerry Allen, University of Birmingham to the meeting to introduce the research they are undertaking to explore what happens to older people and care staff when home close.

Kerry Allen covered the following key issues:

- ECC is case study site. The home chosen will be anonymised
- The research has received programme grant funding and is the first social care related programmed to be funded by this grant
- Focus will be on older people's care homes and the research will include:
  - 1) What is the pattern of care home closures nationally, how are they undertaken in different Councils and what do Councils consider to be best practice when supporting older people at such potentially stressful times?
  - 2) How do older people experience closures, what impact does closure have on health and quality of life, and how can any negative impacts be reduced?
  - 3) What impact do closures have on care staff and local care markets, and how can negative impacts be reduced?
  - 4) What are the costs and consequences of closures, and the key data required to make this estimation? Can we develop a modelling framework to drive appropriate data collection for future home closure prediction to mitigate adverse outcomes?
  - 5) How can future closures be planned and conducted in a more evidence-based manner, so that outcomes for older people are improved and negative impacts reduced?
- Currently waiting for a care home to close that will be used a case study. Interviews will be completed with the residents of the home, staff and families. The research team will look to situate themselves within the care home to talk to people in person, if possible
- Aim is to create practical outputs from the research, such as accessible guides for services and older people and their families.

During the discussion, the following key points were noted:

- Home closures are not always for financial reasons, sometimes they are quality related
- To consider whether the funding costs that come because of a closure outweigh the operational issues of the closure in the first place
- Research programme has a fixed timeframe of within two years
- A website will be created which will detail emerging findings
- Committee would be interested to know if the care homes being used in the research are run by the local authority
- Quality of resident's life review will be conducted before the move, during the move and a year after the move.

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

- i) Committee to receive regular updates on how the research is progressing

#### **7. Establishment of JHOSC with London Borough of Waltham Forest and London Borough of Redbridge**

Having been moved by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Souter it was **resolved** that Cllr McIvor was appointed to the JHOSC as the Essex County Council representative to scrutinise the Whipps Cross Hospital development.

#### **8. East of England Ambulance Service Trust – response to HOSC letter**

The Committee noted the response from the East of England Ambulance Service Trust and invited them to a future meeting to present the report fully.

#### **9. Work Programme**

The Committee noted the current work programme, and suggested the following matters be added for future consideration:

- Covid-19 update
- Hospital waiting times – overview of all Essex hospitals
- A&E seasons pressures
- Winter Flu Rates
- Access to GP services
- Digitalisation of access to healthcare
- NHS 111 – the impact of GP's directing residents to the service.

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

To note that the next committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 10:30am.

#### **11. Urgent business**

No urgent business received.

#### **12. Urgent exempt business**

No urgent exempt business received.

The meeting closed at 11:37am.

**Chairman**