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Southend-on-Sea City Council

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10 September 2024

Dear Councillor

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 2024

Please find attached the questions from members of the public, together with the respective responses from the relevant Cabinet Members, at the meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 28th August, 2024.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Cox

Principal Democratic Services Officer

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SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL

People Scrutiny Committee Meeting

28th August 2024

3

Question 1. From Ms Mitchell for Cllr Sadza (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities)

There are outstanding concerns about cuts to Southend's neo-natal unit and a recent report that maternity units are unsafe, with South Essex Hospitals paying out £63m in negligence claims. Can the portfolio holder for Social Care and Healthier Communities let us know how the council intends to tackle this with Mid and South Essex ICS and make maternity care safe for both families and health staff in Southend?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Ms Mitchell.

The planned spend on Obstetric Medicine for Mid & South Essex residents at Mid and South Essex Hospitals for the year 2024/25 is £63.42m. Adjustments in future years will be applied based on NHS Payment Scheme tariff adjustments.

There are no planned budget alterations that will affect the safety of maternity services for families and staff in Southend.

Question 2. from Ms Cowdrey for Cllr Sadza (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities)

On Tuesday 12th March, The People Scrutiny Committee rejected the report from MSE NHS Trust regarding their decision to redesignate the status of the neonatal unit at Southend Hospital from a Level 2 Local Neonatal Unit (LNU) to a Level 1 Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).

The committee made 7 recommendations, including pausing the redesignation along with a request for reports, details, information and data on a number of issues raised by the committee who expressed

strong concerns about this proposal.

Could the Portfolio holder for Social Care and Healthier Communities please provide an update for each of the seven recommendations and reassurance that the council will continue to lobby MSE NHS Trust to ensure Southend residents receive an equitable service across all hospital and other health services?

Response:

Thank you for your question Ms. Cowdrey.

I have written to the Interim Manager for Women's and Children's Services at Mid and South Essex Foundation Trust, seeking a response to the questions raised in the People Scrutiny meeting in March 2024. These were in relation to the discussion arising from the report on neonatal options from the Trust with regard to redesignation of the Neonatal Unit from level 2 Local Neonatal Unit (LNU) to level 1 Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).

MSE Foundation Trust have confirmed that they have received my letter, and that they are pulling together the information requested in response to my questions. As soon as I receive the response from the Trust I will of course feed this back to the People Scrutiny Committee.

Further, as the portfolio holder for Social Care and Healthier Communities I want to assure you that I am fully committed to ensuring that Southend residents have access to the best possible health services.

Question 3. From Mr Webb for Cllr Sadza (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Healthier Communities)

How many residents who have been identified as obese in 2021 – 2022, 2023 – 2024, What programmes do the council or GP practices put in place for those residents to support their diet, exercise and lose weight and be healthier?

Response:

Thank you for your question Mr Webb.

Approximately 37,000 patients were registered as obese in Southend in 2021 / 2022 and just under 42,000 were registered in 2023 /2024. The following programmes are currently available to residents to help them with their diet, exercise, manage their weight and be healthier.

- **A 12-week tier 2 weight management programme available to anyone who has a Body Mass Index (BMI) equal or greater than 30, or 27.5 for anyone with additional health conditions or from a minority ethnic group. People can self-refer or GPs can refer onto this programme.**
- **A Tier 3 pharmacological intervention which only GPs can refer to, and which is limited by the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board, to residents who for example have completed a Tier 2 behavioural change programme.**
- **A Tier 4 weigh management programmes for people with a BMI of 40 or more which GPs can refer residents onto.**
- **Physical activity is provided by multiple routes across the city with a range of classes provided to those who are inactive, that is those doing less than 30 minutes of activity a week. Everyone Health provides its own in-house 12-week programme and Fusion Lifestyle provides the Well-being referral programme.**
- **Active Life and other community-based organisations provide opportunities for people to become more active.**
- **The Health Trainer programme provides 6, one to one sessions for people that need more intensive support. Health trainers are based in some GP practices.**

- **Finally, there are nationally commissioned programmes offering help and support including, NHS Digital Health, Digital Weight management Programme, NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme, and the NHS Type 2 diabetes path to remission programme.**