

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

**Report of Chief Executive
to
People Scrutiny Committee**

10th April 2018

Report prepared by:
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**Scrutiny Committee - updates
*A Part 1 Agenda Item***

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on a number of health scrutiny matters and other matters relating to the work of the Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report and any actions taken be noted.
- 2.2 To endorse the terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the STP, as set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 To note the response made by the Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the STP, as set out at **Appendix 2**.

3 Quality Report / Account – 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee, as a statutory consultee is invited to comment on the draft Quality Accounts received from health bodies. Unfortunately there is no discretion in the statutory timescales. In 2017, the draft Quality Accounts from Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) and Southend Hospital were circulated to Committee members for any comments and a submission was sent to the Trusts in the time frame (Minute 966 refers).
- 3.2 EPUT have recently advised that the draft Quality Account for 2017/18 will be sent on the 20th April 2018. Southend Hospital are likely to send the document through in the third week of April. These documents will be circulated to the Committee as soon as they are received. There is a requirement that any comments must be received by the Trusts within 30 days, in accordance with the Regulations.

4. GP practice changes

- 4.1 West Road Surgery – In February 2018, the Scrutiny Committee was notified by NHS England that the West Road and Westborough practices were planning to merge to form one single GP practice under the name of West Road Surgery, with effect from 3rd April 2018. A letter was sent to all patients registered in

February 2018 which provided further inform about the proposal and included some 'frequently asked questions' which provided more detail on the merger.

In terms of practice size, the Committee was advised that at the start of the process the list size was approximately 1800, though this is now diminishing and there will be around 1400 by the time of the transfer.

- 4.2 Closure of Lydia House Surgery and securing permanent registration with local GP – in February 2018 the Scrutiny Committee was notified about the closure of Family Health care, Lydia House Surgery in Leigh on 3rd April 2018 (the surgery is part of the Queensway Group) and arrangements for securing permanent registration with a local GP. Highlands Surgery was identified as the local practice and the change would take effect from 4th April 2018.

5. Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Mid and South Essex Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP)

- 5.1 The Committee will be aware that in accordance with relevant regulations a Joint Scrutiny Committee has been established comprising Members from Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend Council. At the first formal meeting held on 20th February 2018¹, Councillor Bernard Arscott was appointed as Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and County Councillor Jo Beavis (Essex County Council) and Councillor Graham Snell (Thurrock Council) were appointed as the two Vice-Chairs.
- 5.2 The terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee were agreed at the meeting held on 20th February 2018 and are attached at **Appendix 1**. The Committee will be aware that the draft terms of reference were considered and discussed by the People Scrutiny Committee on 18th October 2017 (Minute 388 refers).
- 5.3 The Joint Committee of the CCGs in mid and south Essex launched its public consultation on 30 November 2017. The consultation focused on proposals to make changes to some hospital services in Southend, Chelmsford, Braintree and Basildon, as well as proposals to the transfer of services from Orsett Hospital in Thurrock to new centres closer to where people live. The original closing date for the consultation was 9 March 2018. Following feedback, the deadline for consultation responses was extended to 23 March 2018.
- 5.4 The Joint Scrutiny Committee has held 2 formal meetings and 2 informal meeting during the consultation. At its meeting on 13th March 2018, the Joint Scrutiny Committee agreed to delegate approval to the Chairman and two Vice Chairmen to approve the response to the current consultation. All Members of the Joint Committee had the opportunity to consider the proposed response prior to its submission.
- 5.5 This Council's response to the consultation was discussed in detail at the last Scrutiny Committee meeting (Minute 691 refers) and at the full Council meeting on 22nd February 2018.

¹ The papers for the formal meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee are available on each of the participating local authority websites

- 5.6 The Committee is asked to note the formal response of the Joint Scrutiny Committee attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 5.7 It is helpful for the Scrutiny Committee to be aware of the next steps, as set out below:-
- Some Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee plan to attend CCG Joint Committee meeting in early April;
 - STP to publish the independent analysis of the consultation feedback - 8th May;
 - The Joint Scrutiny Committee will meet in the first week June and in mid June;
 - CCG Joint Committee papers published - 29th June;
 - The Joint Scrutiny Committee will meet in the first week July;
 - CCG Joint Committee meeting to reach final decisions – 6th July;
 - Post decision scrutiny by Joint Scrutiny Committee and response to decisions.

6. Independent Reconfiguration Panel

- 6.1 The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) is the independent expert on NHS service change. The IRP is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care.
- 6.2 The Panel has issued some reports recently which will be of interest to the Scrutiny Committee. A recent example is the initial assessment on Horton General Hospital, Banbury referral concerning the permanent closure of consultant-led maternity services. This report can be found on the following link - [IRP: Horton General Hospital, Banbury initial assessment](#) and is an example of how referrals to the Secretary of State are clearly taken seriously and investigated with care by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

7. Children's Services Improvement Plan Scrutiny Panel

- 7.1 The Committee will be aware that following the inspection of Children's Services in 2016, the decision was taken to create an Improvement Board, chaired by the Chief Executive and members include the independent chair of the safeguarding boards, the Leader of the Council, Executive Councillor for Children and Learning, shadow Member, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services. Since November 2016 it has met on a bi-monthly basis to review and interrogate the improvement journey against the Ofsted recommendations and against the revised Children's Services Improvement Plan from December 2017.
- 7.2 Alongside this, a Scrutiny Panel was established to help provide additional challenge and the panel meets on a bi-monthly basis and receives the reports which are taken to the Improvement Board.
- 7.3 The following Scrutiny Councillors are Members on the Panel - Councillors Nevin (Chair), Arscott, Boyd, Davies and Walker. Since January 2017, the Panel has met on 6 occasions, with the most recent meeting taking place on 12th March 2018.
- 7.4 Panel members have taken the opportunity to visit front line services, such as the multi-agency 'front door', which has been useful and appreciated by the staff

concerned. Members of the Panel also plan to meet with the Young Experts Group (for Looked After Children).

8. Corporate Implications

- 8.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 8.2 Financial Implications – There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report. The cost of any Joint Committee work can be met from existing resources.
- 8.3 Legal Implications – the Scrutiny Committee exercises the health scrutiny function as set out in relevant legislation. Where an NHS body consults more than one local authority on a proposal for substantial development of the health service or a substantial variation in the provision of such a service, those authorities are required to appoint a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the purposes of the consultation. Only that joint committee may - make comments on the proposal to the NHS body; require the provision of information about the proposal; require an officer of the NHS body to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the STP proposals.
- 8.4 People Implications – none.
- 8.5 Property Implications – none.
- 8.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 8.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.
- 8.8 Risk Assessment – none.

9. Background Papers

- Emails regarding Quality Accounts; letter from EPUT regarding Quality Account / Report process
- Emails regarding the GP practice changes

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of Joint Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 2 – Formal response of Joint Scrutiny Committee