

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director, Department for People
to
Health and Wellbeing Board

On
25 September 2013

Report prepared by:
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Agenda
Item No.

8

‘Who Will Care?’ Hughes-Hallett independent commission into health and social care in Essex Final report

1. Purpose of Report

To present the findings of the Hughes-Hallett independent commission into health and social care in Essex.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Board note the Commission’s findings.

3. Background

3.1 In January 2013 Essex County Council commissioned Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett to carry out an independent study into the Essex health and social care landscape.

3.2 The Commission’s central brief was that rising demand and constrained public funding constitute one of the most pressing health and social care policy issues of the day and that the Essex-wide health and social care system, as currently constructed, is unsustainable.

3.3 Sir Thomas’ remit was to ‘carry out an appraisal of how the health and social care system in Essex can be improved for the benefit of all’. Particular focus was given to out of hospital care, with special emphasis on systems relating to frail people, those with dementia, and those with disabilities. Whilst funded by Essex County Council the study was independent in its research.

3.4 Between January and August 2013 a team of 5 commissioners visited a wide range of deliverers and users of social care and health services across the County, taking evidence from hundreds of individuals.

3.5 In July 2013 Sir Thomas provided a progress update to the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board. The Commission published its final findings on 12 September 2013.

4. Findings

4.1 The Commission's final report makes the following key recommendations;

Agree a new understanding between the public sector and the people of Essex – by being up-front and honest about the realities, responsibilities and costs of care.

Prevent unnecessary crises in care – by changing the focus of care from treating disease and chronic conditions to supporting individuals earlier.

Mobilise community resources – by acknowledging that local approaches and local understanding can deliver care, support, value, and greater independence.

Use data and technology to the advantage of the people of Essex – by adopting tools and techniques that better support independent living, self-care, and co-ordination and give more convenient access to good advice.

Ensure clear leadership, vision and accountability – by bringing together key partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver co-ordinated and convenient care for us all.

The full report can be found at [Appendix A.](#)

5. Next steps

5.1 Essex County Council have yet to formally respond to the recommendations. However it is suggested that the report's findings form a central area of discussion at a proposed joint Southend, Thurrock and Essex Health & Wellbeing Board seminar currently being planned for winter 2013.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.

6.2 Financial Implications – potential cross partnership savings should recommendations are implemented

6.3 Legal Implications – to be determined, dependent on adoption of recommendations.

6.4 People Implications – none at present

6.5 Property Implications – none at present.

6.6 Consultation – with other officers.

6.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none at present.

6.8 Risk Assessment – none at present.

7. Background Papers

7.1 There are no background papers

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – ‘Who will care?’ Five high-impact solutions to prevent a future crisis in health and social care in Essex