

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to
People Scrutiny Committee

8th October 2013

Report prepared by:
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Chairman's update
A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on some health scrutiny matters, and other scrutiny matters as follows:

- Local & regional health issues;
 - Information from Care Quality Commission;
 - Direct access to Pathology Services;
 - Vascular surgery;
 - Cystic Fibrosis; and
- Proposed project plan for the in depth scrutiny project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report and actions taken be noted.
- 2.2 That the project plan for the in depth scrutiny project '*Southend primary schools' falling grammar school entry figures*', attached at **Appendix 2** be agreed.

3. Local & Regional health issues

- 3.1 Care Quality Commission – Professor Sir Mike Richards, the new chief inspector of hospitals at the Care Quality Commission has recently outlined how he would lead a new approach to inspecting NHS hospitals – this information is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 Direct access to Pathology Services – A letter from Dr Paul Husselbee, Clinical Chief Officer, NHS Southend CCG outlining the position re this service has been circulated to members. This advised that the CCG's are no longer pursuing the possibility of a contract with CPS and will continue with the existing arrangements whilst considering their long term plans to identify the best way forward for GP-ordered laboratory services in south Essex.
- 3.3 Elective and Emergency Vascular surgery in Essex – The Chairman was contacted recently by the lead officer for this review, Ruth Derrett, Head of Specialised Services, NHS England (Midlands and East), asking whether we are comfortable for NHS England to proceed with the vascular project following the

engagement that has been carried out. Thurrock and Essex Scrutiny Committees were also contacted.

The formal recommendations for Essex are for the configuration of networks across mid/west Essex and south Essex as - Chelmsford/Harlow network – Chelmsford as the main arterial centre and Harlow as a non-arterial centre; Southend/Basildon network – Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as the arterial centre and Basildon as a non-arterial centre. On this basis, a reply was sent, indicating that we do not envisage a requirement for further consultation given the extent of engagement to date; the proposals would be consistent with the national service specification; and is also recognised that this reconfiguration is closely linked to the stroke reconfiguration in Essex. The options appraisal criteria includes hyper acute stroke unit dependencies.

It is envisaged that a decision will be taken in early Autumn 2013, with implementation of changes to services within 12 months of the decision. Health will advise us when the decision has been reached formally on the reconfiguration and will continue to provide regular updates. There will also be comprehensive and significant public communication of the new network arrangements before and during launch.

- 3.4 Cystic Fibrosis (Children 0-16yrs of age) – some information has been received on this service reconfiguration. Young people over 16 receive inpatient care at Papworth. For our area, the specialist centre will be Royal Brompton. Further information on the reconfiguration will be circulated to the Committee in due course.

4. In depth scrutiny project – project plan

- 4.1 At the meeting in July, the Committee decided that the topic for in depth study for 2013 / 14 would be – ‘*Southend primary schools’ falling grammar school entry figures*’ (Minute 145 refers).
- 4.2 The draft project plan is attached at **Appendix 2** for approval. A meeting of the project team will be held soon and will work on the arrangements for the project.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Contribution to Council’s Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 5.2 Financial Implications - there are nominal costs involved in operating any in-depth scrutiny project, which can be met from the Council’s scrutiny budget.
- 5.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 5.4 People Implications – none.
- 5.5 Property Implications – none.
- 5.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.

5.8 Risk Assessment – none.

6. Background Papers

Pathology Services – circulated on 3rd September 2013.

Vascular review:

Update on vascular project – circulated on 12th July 2013 – previous updates have been circulated & reported to Members during 2012 / 13;

Email from Ruth Derrett, 12th September 2013 and response sent 16th September 2013;

Responses by Thurrock and Essex Health scrutiny committees.

Cystic Fibrosis – outline on review received at officer regional group.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – CQC Press Release

Appendix 2 - draft project plan