

People Scrutiny Committee – 14th October 2014

Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question

“In the past Westborough had 4 local GP surgeries and now there is 4. One of the GP has the highest number of patients. Will there be another GP surgery in one of most densely populated ward in Southend?”

Answer

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council does not have any responsibility for the provision of GP surgeries - this is the responsibility of the NHS England Essex Area Team.

The NHS England Essex Area Team has confirmed that 2 of the 4 GP practices in Westborough Ward have moved into the North Road Primary Care Centre. These GPs continue to offer primary care services to their original patient list.

The Essex Primary Care Strategy has not identified the need for any further GP practices in Westborough Ward in the near future.

Question from Mr Ali to the Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Question

“In the light of the major changes that have been made to the governance of Southend hospital, will the Committee confirm that it is satisfied with the arrangements that have been made by the hospital to maintain the services at the highest levels of accessibility and quality for the healthcare to our population, and with the arrangements that have been made to ensure the local health economy stays within its budget whilst protecting the health and interests of the citizens of Southend?”

Answer

As I understand the position, one part of Scrutiny’s role is to hold NHS bodies to account for the health services they provide and provide an effective ‘critical friend’ challenge. When particular issues are raised, the Committee does call in the Chief Executive and other senior leaders from the relevant health body.

It is not Scrutiny’s function to micro manage another organisation.

The Hospital Trust Board of Governors of course also has a duty to work closely with the board of directors in supporting and holding the trust to account.

As Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board I can also provide reassurance that all issues around the health economy are fully considered.