

Member briefing sessions

Note

In November, Councillor Woodley made a suggestion that presentations from outside bodies could be taken at briefing sessions rather than at scrutiny committee meetings. Following discussion with the Chief Executive it was agreed that this suggestion should be implemented immediately.

An all members briefing session was held on 17th December 2013. The briefing consisted of presentations from:

- Southend Hospital Trust – Jacqueline Totterdell, Chief Executive; and
- South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) – Sally Morris, Chief Executive and Malcolm McCann, Director of Integrated Services.

At the session, the Hospital provided an update on the Care Quality Inspection, A&E performance update, and maternity services update. SEPT provided an update on the organisation and the challenges, opportunities and focus.

The session lasted an hour and quarter and was attended by 11 Councillors and 2 co-opted members¹.

There will be a further briefing session on 13th January 2014. This briefing will consist of presentations from:

- Sue Hardy Chief Nurse / Deputy Chief Executive and Dr Kate Gretton, Southend Hospital Trust on palliative (end of life) care; and
- Adam Wilkinson, Terrence Higgins Trust.

The main benefit to the new approach is that it allows other members to attend these 'cross cutting' presentations rather than just those members of the particular scrutiny committee. The feedback from the session on 17th December was also extremely positive.

Further member briefing sessions are being planned on the following topics – Police update and Family Mosaic.

Fiona Abbott
Principal Committee Officer, Health Scrutiny Lead Officer & Designated Scrutiny Officer

¹ Copies of the presentation slides are available on request