

Members' Suite
PO Box 11,
County Hall,
Chelmsford CM1 1LX
Email: cllr.ann.naylor@essex.gov.uk



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BY EMAIL

Ruth Ashmore,
Assistant Director of Specialised Commissioning.
NHS England - Specialised Services (Midlands and East of England)

c.c.
Jessamy Kinghorn
Head of Communications and Engagement
NHS England - Specialised Services (Midlands and East of England)

Dear Ruth

**JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
COMPLEX UROLOGICAL CANCER SURGERY IN ESSEX**

Thank you for your formal response to each of the eight recommendations made by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) which was established to review NHS England proposals for a single specialist centre in Essex for complex urological cancer surgery.

At the time of making the recommendations last September it was agreed that an update be sought from you approximately six months later on your acceptance (or otherwise) of them and how they are being implemented. You will be aware that the members of the JHOSC intended to discuss your response and assess whether they could obtain sufficient reassurance that progress is being made without necessitating the convening of another formal meeting of the JHOSC (which would be particularly difficult due to imminent local and national elections).

I can confirm that, generally, the JHOSC is pleased with your responses to the recommendations and is reassured by your commitment to address the concerns raised by the JHOSC. It recognises that, in many cases, it is 'early days' and the right intention is there although it is too early yet for everything to be fully evidenced.

Recommendation 4 – mitigating actions to mitigate disadvantaged groups

The JHOSC were particularly pleased to see the processes being put in place by NHS England to ensure good communication and sharing of information between

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hospitals, the attention being given to minimising the amount of long distance travel for appointments and the provision of information on accommodation available near Southend Hospital (if required).

Recommendation 7 – further information on future anticipated investment

You will recall that the JHOSC discussion last year anticipating the possible expansion of local joint care clinics and also the future need for investment in robotic surgery had led to Recommendation 7(i) asking for further information on the future anticipated investment into the reconfigured service. You have outlined the context for assessing funding needs through the work of the Implementation Oversight Group. However, the JHOSC would like to know the overall calculated financial cost of moving to the new model and what reassurance process is in place that adequate funding will be available for the future investment needs of the new service model. In particular, are all consultants now in place for the new model – if not what timelines are planned for this to be completed? Has there been a need for any out-of-area (Essex) placements for treatment as a result?

Recommendation 8: re-instating the formal cancer alliance network groups

The JHOSC would have preferred to have seen a more local input rather than the proposed single cancer alliance for the East of England but recognise that that is not currently possible. The JHOSC feels that NHS England, through the Implementation Oversight Group, should take this opportunity to supplement the work of the new regionalised network with greater working with local Healthwatch.

Conclusion.

The JHOSC asks for further information as detailed under Recommendation 7 but is reassured by, and fully supports, the commitment and work being undertaken to address the JHOSC's concerns. It would like to think that important lessons have been learnt for future public and patient engagement and particularly the importance of regular and clear communications on proposals to minimise the likelihood of misleading media coverage.

Thank you for your time and effort in supporting the work of the JHOSC on this issue.

Yours sincerely

AGREED BY EMAIL

Essex County Councillor Ann Naylor
Chairman of the JHOSC

AGREED BY EMAIL

Southend-on-Sea Borough Councillor
Cheryl Nevin
Vice Chairman of the JHOSC