

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Legal and Democratic Services

Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services): John Williams

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Sent via email

Dorothy Hosein
Interim Chief Executive
East of England Ambulance Headquarters
Whiting Way
Melbourn
Cambridgeshire
SG8 6EN

Our ref: Fiona Abbott
Your ref:
Date: 28th October 2019
Telephone: 01702 215104
Email: fionaabbott@southend.gov.uk

Dear Ms Hosein,

Shoebury Ambulance Station

At the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in September, the possibility of Shoebury Ambulance station being closed was raised by Southend Healthwatch. The Accountable Officer of Southend and Castle Point and Rochford CCG's undertook to confirm this with the East of England Ambulance Service Trust. An assurance was received on 15th October that there were no plans to close Shoebury Ambulance station; this response was communicated, as promised, to the members of Southend Health and Wellbeing Board.

We were extremely unhappy and disappointed to hear the news during the last week that the Ambulance Trust appears to have plans in place to make changes to the station and intends to establish a response post at the site later in November. It is very also disappointing that the relevant CCG also appeared to be unaware of these plans.

We are writing to you objecting to these proposals, given that we have not been consulted and ask that the Trust pause making any changes and to continue the site in its current form, at least until there has been proper consultation. We will also continue to liaise closely with the Accountable Officer of the CCG as the commissioner of the service.

If there is a firm proposal to make changes then the Trust obviously needs to carry out a formal exercise with the Council and others, and a representative will need to attend the Council's People Scrutiny Committee (which acts as the health scrutiny committee) to explain the proposals. There is a meeting scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 26th November but an earlier meeting could be arranged if necessary. The Scrutiny Committee will be happy to consider any proposals in its usual manner. Can the relevant officer please liaise with Fiona Abbott (01702) 215104 to discuss the arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Lesley Salter
Chair, People Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Trevor Harp
Chair, Southend Health and Wellbeing Board

Cc Terry Huff, Accountable Officer, NHS Castle Point & Rochford CCG and Southend CCG

