

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Sponsor: Tricia D'Orsi, NHS Alliance Director

Purpose

The existing Mid and South Essex Primary Care Strategy (PCS) was approved in the summer of 2018 and covered a period up until 2020/21.

Its focus was on

- addressing an existing and projected demand and capacity gap within General Practice
- ensuring that General Practice was sustainable and an attractive place to work, and
- whilst this was particularly aimed at individual provider resilience there was a desire to encourage collaborative working across General Practice and between General Practice and the wider system

In early 2019 NHSE released the Long-Term Plan and the outcomes of the latest round of GP Contract negotiations, both of which built on concepts included in the PCS. The Network (PCN) DES provided a contractual vehicle upon which transformation could be delivered.

In the Autumn of 2020 it was agreed by the MSE Health and Care Partnership that it was a system priority to refresh and revise the strategy, particularly given significant changes in the system, due to the implementation of NHS Long Term Plan, significant developments in partnership working, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Process

Dr Brian Balmer, CEO of the Essex LMCs, was asked to provide clinical leadership in the development of the Primary Care Strategy Refresh. A discussion document was developed that raised a number of key questions about the strategic direction for Primary Care, and the support that Primary Care Networks need to become successful.

It is important to note that this was not creating a new strategic direction – this had already been set in the 2018 strategy, the NHS Long-Term Plan and the MSEH&CP Five Year Delivery Plan – but was bringing the local strategy up to date.

This discussion document was presented to a range of audiences including, CCG Clinical Executives Meetings, the Strategic Community Interface Committee (including LA representation), the Health and Care Partnership and a dedicated discussion with representatives from the three Healthwatch organisations within Mid and South Essex.

Following this engagement process with stakeholders this discussion document is now being converted into a strategy document that will undergo further engagement to ensure it aligns with local and organisational strategic directions.

Key Messages

The strategy document contains a number of key messages including

- An update on the resilience/sustainability of General Practice in terms of demand and capacity, looking at current and projected models and staffing, in particular the

impact of the increase in workforce through contractual entitlements. The modelling underpinning this is being finalised with links into each place through local Primary Care leads.

- There is a growing challenge for the system to address in relation to increasing waits between referral and intervention in secondary care and that General Practice should take a leadership role in owning this
- The future model of care remains in-line with the strategy of 2018, with a focus on improved collaboration between and beyond General Practice through Primary Care Networks – in Southend this aligns with work already underway with the Local Authority around improving collaborative arrangements between frontline staff, and the principles of the South East Essex Alliance. Working with partners PCNs will focus on
 - Improved collaboration with all stakeholder that impact on a person's health and wellbeing, and
 - Improving population health outcomes
- The development of better engagement between PCNs and the communities which they serve as a key part of the future operating model for Primary Care Networks

Next Steps

The current document is undergoing a re-edit at which point further engagement will be undertaken to ensure it meets the requirements of the partnership. This will include as a minimum the local NHS Alliance Director, the LA representative from the Health and Care Partnership and representation from Healthwatch.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the content of this update paper.