

People Scrutiny Committee – 20th December 2016

Public Questions

Question from Mr Fieldhouse to the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care

Question 1

“Would the relevant officer/post holder agree with me that all of the proposed options for the configuration of new types of hospitals, contained within the Mid and South Essex Success Regime STP, will inevitably lead to at least a two tier, and possibly three tier, standard of accident and emergency medical provision for residents within this region? “

Answer

I would firstly like to thank Mr Fieldhouse for his questions about the Mid & South Essex Success Regime and STP. This is an important issue and I do understand the concerns expressed.

As I am sure we all do, I want a good health service for Southend. The plans are still at the pre consultation stage however and as I understand it, no decisions have yet been taken. Any proposals for service change will be the subject of full consultation by NHS England. Scrutiny as well as other stakeholders will be able to respond to the consultation as will members of the public, to judge the proposals on their merit.

I would like to reassure you that at that stage I will need to be comfortable with what is proposed. I start from the position that the Council will only support proposals which will lead to improvements in the health service in our area.

Question from Mr Fieldhouse to the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care

Question 2

“By its very nature, emergency care is time critical and the prospect of already overstretched emergency vehicles transporting gravely ill patients from Southend to Basildon or Chelmsford along often heavily congested roads can surely not benefit those patients. In view of this, will the relevant officer/post holder also agree with me that, in the best interests of the town's residents, the Committee should propose the rejection of the purely cost cutting recommendations of this plan to ensure the people of Southend will not suffer unnecessary risks to their health and lives?”

Answer

As I gave in my first answer, the STP & Success Regime is still in the pre consultation phase and that there are no firm proposals in the draft plan for Southend A&E. This evenings meeting is an opportunity to understand further what is being proposed.

Question from Mr Traub to the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care

Question 3

“Does the Executive Councillor agree that in view of frequent black alerts from Southend University Hospital Foundation Trust due to insufficient NHS funding, provisions in the Mid and South Essex Success Regime STP should include the necessary increase in hospital beds to meet the increased demand?”

Answer

Thank you for your question Mr Traub.

I am sure that we all understand the difficult position the Trust finds itself in at various times and the black alerts are of grave concern to us all.

As I understand it, the STP draft plan is about a system wide change to meet rising demand by providing more care closer to people, where they live and to avoid emergency situations. I would imagine that the aim is to reduce rather than increase demand and the need for additional hospital beds. Part of the process tonight is to explore whether this aim is achievable.