

Appendix 2

Summary Provided by Councillor John Bloodworth on the Work Carried out by the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee During 2017-2018

The SCC Health Scrutiny Committee has met four times during 2017-2018 (12 July 2017, 17 October 2017, 24 January 2018 and 18 April 2018), of which I attended two meetings. Below is a summary of what was considered:

17 October 2017, Endeavour House, Ipswich

A member of the public spoke in the public participation session, who expressed concerns about the implication of the merger of Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals on transport arrangements of patients, particularly in light of the high proportion of elderly people in the catchments of the two hospitals.

Homecare arrangements in Suffolk

The Committee considered the arrangements for the delivery of homecare in Suffolk.

The Committee received written evidence from Adult and Community Services and from Suffolk Association of Independent Care providers, and was provided with verbal evidence by the witnesses. Members then had the opportunity to ask questions and comment on what they had heard.

The Committee heard that Healthwatch England had recently identified domestic care provision as a major concern because it was so hard to monitor.

Members heard of delays within the County Council in making payments to providers and requested that these, and the reasons for them should be investigated as a matter of priority. The Committee also heard on concerns about the potential financial risk to providers posed by the Direct Payments system and was informed that there were plans to reduce this by introducing a card payment system, which Members agreed should be expedited.

Update on NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships/Plans (STPs)

The Committee received an overview of the arrangements for scrutiny of the STPs that covered Suffolk and an update on progress with the Suffolk and North East (NE) Essex STP, including the development of partnership arrangements between Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals.

The Committee also received a copy of the minutes of the Essex and Suffolk Joint Scrutiny of the STP for NE Essex, Ipswich and East and West Suffolk held on 10 March 2017 and also briefing documents prepared by the STP Programme Director and STP Communications and Engagement Lead, Suffolk and North East Essex STP.

The witnesses provided a verbal update on progress with the STP and Members had the opportunity to ask questions and comment on what they had heard.

18 April 2018

Effective Discharge of Patients from Hospital

The Committee received an update on the numbers of patients subject to delayed transfers of care from hospital in Suffolk, the reasons for the delays and the measures being put in place to reduce them. Following consideration of the information received.

The Committee was pleased to hear that since it last considered this matter progress had been made in developing an integrated whole system approach to manage the transfer of consequent reduction in the numbers of delayed transfers of care. Members expressed a desire to see even fewer patients delayed in hospital over the coming months.

Information Requested for Future Meetings

- Information on readmission rates for patients discharged from Suffolk hospitals.
- Further information on "Best Interest Assessments".
- Information requested for the meeting currently scheduled on 28 April 2019, an update on progress with the reduction of delayed transfers of care through the integration of health and care services, and information on the performance of the system over the winter of 2018-2019.
- Agreed that at its meeting on 18 July 2018, when the Committee was scheduled to consider the proposed new model for procurement of homecare services, it should include a consideration of the issues associated with retention of health and care staff during school holiday periods.