



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Paul Hopfensperger

HEALTH SCRUTINY REPORT – 2018

Firstly, I would like to thank my St Edmundsbury Colleagues for nominating me again to serve on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for another year. It has been an honour and I have found it extremely interesting.

The committee consists of five Suffolk County Councillors and seven District/Borough Councillors. Full membership details can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/committees/health-scrutiny-committee/>

The format of the committee meeting is different from St Edmundsbury meetings in that we meet an hour before the meeting starts to discuss the papers, usually at 9am, and make sure that everyone understands them. The papers are very detailed, but they very much speak in NHS language and even after 2 years, I am still learning the language! The meetings are held four times per year in the main council chamber at Endeavour House in Ipswich. They usually start at 10am, and councillors sit one side, the Chairman and scrutiny officers sit opposite, and witnesses as they are called, sit at the end of the chamber to our right. It is our job to listen to their verbal comments on the presented reports and then question them on the contents. At the end, the Chairman sums up each paper, and sends the witnesses away to action our recommendations, and report back at a future meeting with any progress (or not) from our recommendations.

Just a small selection of witnesses include the following (there were many, many more);

- Nick Hulme, Chief Executive, Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust and Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
- David Brown, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Kerry Harding, Estates Adviser, NHS England (East)
- Abdul Razaq, Director of Public health, Suffolk County Council
- Lois Wreathall, Head of Primary Care, West Suffolk CCG
- Professor Stephen Dunn, Chief Executive, West Suffolk Hospital
- Andy Yacoub, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Suffolk
- Isabel Cockayne, Head of Communications, Ipswich and East Suffolk & West Suffolk CCG

Subject ranges we have covered over the past year are as follows:-

- **Effective Discharge of Patients from Hospital** – This provided members with an opportunity to understand the reasons why delayed transfers of care occur, to receive an update on the initiatives that are in place to reduce them, and to consider how the system could be supported to reduce them further.
- **The Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People** – The committee considered the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, and progress with the implementation of EW2020 (the Suffolk and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Plan:

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<https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Emotional-Wellbeing-Strategy-V1.PDF>). The committee had previously considered this matter in January 2017 and January 2016.

- **The Colchester and Ipswich Hospital Merger** – The committee has considered and is indeed involved with this merger and has received written evidence from Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust and Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, and has been joined on several occasions by Nick Hulme, Chief Executive, Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust and Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust.
- **Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT) – Response to CQC Inspection** – The witnesses provided a verbal update on progress made following NSFT having been rated “Inadequate” and placed into “Special Measures” following an inspection by the Chief Inspector of Hospitals for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in July 2017. The committee noted the slow progress and urged that significant movement should take place to achieve completion of the tasks in the CQC Improvement Plan.
- **Homecare Arrangements in Suffolk** – The committee considered the arrangements for the delivery of homecare in Suffolk. It received written evidence from Adult and Community Services and from Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers.
- **Update on NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships/Plans (STPs)** – The committee received an overview of the arrangements for the scrutiny of the STPs that covered Suffolk and an update on progress with the Suffolk and North East Essex STP, including the development of the partnership arrangements between Ipswich and Colchester Hospitals.
- **Suffolk’s Health and Wellbeing Priorities** – This item gave the committee with an opportunity to engage with the organisations that commission health services in Suffolk and to explore some of the major health and social care issues being faced in the county.
- **Healthwatch Suffolk** – At the end of each meeting, an update is given by Andy Jacob who is the Chief Executive Officer of Healthwatch Suffolk - <https://www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk> – Using their own words, this is what Healthwatch do: *“We help you to get the best out of health and social care services in Suffolk; improving them today and helping to shape them for tomorrow. We use the things you tell us about local care to influence the delivery and design services in the county – not just for people who use them now, but for anyone who might need to use them in the future”*.

I have been appointed by the committee to be a board observer for the committee on the West Suffolk Hospital and West Suffolk CCG Meetings and to report back to the committee on anything that may be of importance.

In a nutshell, this has been the past year. The meetings usually last around 3 hours, but have been longer. Hopefully this gives you a brief idea of what is a very important committee in Suffolk.

I am happy to continue serving for the 2018 to 2019 year if it is fellow colleagues wishes that I do so.

Paul Hopfensperger