

**Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2023**

**NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK FOUNDATION NHS TRUST (NSFT)  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVISION**

The Health Scrutiny committee met executives from the NSFT to review progress on the delivery of mental health services in Suffolk, since the Trust last met the committee in October 2022.

The Care quality commission (CQC) the national health service regulator inspected NSFT in September and October 2022 and published its most recent report in to NSFT on the 22 February 2023. The background to these inspections, is that the CQC previously inspected the Trust in November and December 2021 and downgraded its rating from requires improvement to inadequate. NSFT is currently within the NHS recovery support programme (RSP), which was formerly known as special measures. Those Trusts within the programme receive focused, intensive mandated support from the NHS to aid sustained improvement.

The most recent CQC report published in February 2023 has resulted in the Trust moving from inadequate to requires improvement. The CQC note in its report that the Trust has moved at pace to make the necessary changes and significant improvements could be seen at all levels of the Trust.

There are currently no Section 29a warning notices issued to the Trust. These notices are legally enforceable notices which are issued by the CQC requiring Trusts to make improvements within a binding timeframe, however the CQC continues to monitor NSFT progress with unresolved identified issues utilising requirement notices.

The link for the CQC press release for its most recent inspection is attached. The full report can also be accessed via this web page.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/press-release/cqc-finds-improvement-norfolk-and-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust-more-progress-needed>

The Trust took a recommendation from the committee that it should continue to develop its work in improving retention of staff as workforce data showed that clinical staff with less than two years' service were leaving at a comparatively disproportionate rate when compared to other staff groups.

The Trust also accepted a recommendation from the Committee that it should increase its collaborative work with external providers such as the County Council and voluntary community and faith sectors to improve the services provided to residents and in particular work to find alternatives to inpatient admission for children and young people. Additionally, the Trust should identify where delays in discharge from inpatient facilities are due to the lack of social housing provision.

The Trust will again meet with the committee as part of its forward work plan and provide appropriate updates.

Cllr Andrew Martin