

# **Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of meeting: 19 November 2019**



**Subject:** Local Mental Health Services - Scrutiny of External Organisation

**Responsible Officer:** S. Tautz (01992) 564180

**Democratic Services:** G. Woodhall (01992) 564470

---

## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That the Committee consider and agree the scope of its proposed external scrutiny with regard to the current provision, planning, management and performance of mental health services across the Epping Forest District.**

1. Members will recall that the Committee has previously requested an opportunity to undertake appropriate external scrutiny of the current provision, planning, management and performance of local mental health services, to better understand how agencies can work together to share best practice and support residents and colleagues with their mental health. This issue is included in the current work programme for the Committee.
2. Representatives of the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust have confirmed that they will be able to attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 17 March 2020, in this regard.
3. In accordance with the procedure previously agreed by the Committee, members are therefore now asked to consider and agree the scope of such external scrutiny of the current provision, planning, management and performance of local mental health services, and appropriate lines of questioning for the representatives of the CCG and the NHS Foundation Trust, in order that prior notice of the specific issues to be raised by the Committee can be provided to each organisation, to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity.
4. The identification of relevant lines of questioning to be raised with the CCG and the NHS Foundation Trust will also be sought from members through the Council Bulletin, nearer the time of the Committee's scrutiny activity.
5. Although the review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services across Essex is generally a function reserved to Essex County Council through the auspices of its Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the County Council has not normally been averse to this authority undertaking appropriate health scrutiny where local concerns exist. As a matter of courtesy, the intentions of the Committee in this regard have been communicated to the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

## **Resource Implications:**

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet

work programme requirements.

### **Legal and Governance Implications:**

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

The review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services across Essex is a function reserved to Essex County Council through the auspices of its Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, although the County Council has not normally been averse to this authority undertaking appropriate health scrutiny where local concerns exist. As a matter of courtesy, the intentions of the Committee in this regard have been communicated to the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:**

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

### **Consultation Undertaken:**

The proposed scrutiny of the current provision, planning, management and performance of local adult social care services is included in the current work programme for the Committee.

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Impact Assessments:**

#### ***Risk Management***

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

#### ***Equality:***

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.