

Report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 28 January 2020



Subject: Local Adult Social Care Services - Scrutiny of External Organisation

Responsible Officer: S. Tautz (01992) 564180

Democratic Services: G. Woodhall (01992) 564470

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee undertake appropriate external scrutiny of Essex County Council, with regard to the current provision, planning, management and performance of adult social care 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 health and adult social care services. This issue is included in the current work programme for the Committee.
2. Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor J. Spence, has confirmed that the Director of Adult Social Care will arrange for relevant officers of Essex County Council to attend the meeting in this regard.
3. The following overarching themes relating to the adult social care responsibilities of Essex County Council, as agreed at the meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2019, have been notified to Councillor Spence as the focus of such external scrutiny:
 - (a) the criteria applied by Essex County Council for home visits to be made to local residents for the provision of home-based adult social care requirements;
 - (b) the types of adult social care services currently being provided within the Epping Forest District, who such services are provided for and who provides the services on behalf of the County Council;
 - (c) how issues of isolation within the local population, particularly amongst older residents, are being addressed by the County Council through the provision of local adult social care services;
 - (d) how Epping Forest District Council can work effectively with Essex County Council to ensure that local residents with social care requirements are able to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible and how the Council's current review of the provision of its sheltered housing schemes can support this aspiration;
 - (e) the support available from the County Council for residents (and the families of residents) suffering from conditions such as dementia (particularly in the early stages of the condition) and visual impairment, and opportunities for the roll-out of smart home technology to help patients to stay in their own homes for as long as

possible;

- (f) how the development of digital technology will support the County Council to provide innovative opportunities to improve local adult social care services, particularly in view of the planned withdrawal of the existing Careline service; and
 - (g) how Epping Forest District Council can work effectively with Essex County Council to support the provision of local adult social care services and how the County Council intends to engage with this Council to ensure the best level of service provision to local residents;
4. The identification of relevant lines of questioning to be raised with the Director of Adult Social Care has also been sought from members through the Council Bulletin.
 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 Policy 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 has 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.