

3 September 2020		ITEM: 10
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Memorandum of Understanding across Mid and South Essex STP and update on CCG Merger and Single CCG Accountable Officer		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health and Mark Tebbs, Interim Deputy Accountable Officer, Thurrock CCG		
Accountable Assistant Director: N/A		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) being considered by members at today's meeting is to formalise and build on our existing partnership arrangements and relationships across the Mid and South Essex footprint. It does not seek to introduce a hierarchical model; rather it provides a mutual accountability framework, based on principles of subsidiarity, to ensure we have collective ownership of delivery. It also provides the basis for a refreshed relationship with national oversight bodies.

The MOU defines an agreed governance framework that specifies the functions that will be delivered at:

- Locality (i.e. Sub-place footprint/Primary Care Network) level
- Place (i.e. The four places agreed across Mid and South Essex – Basildon, Thurrock, Mid-Essex and South East Essex)
- System (i.e. Health & Care Partnership/Mid and South Essex) level

The MoU recognises that accountability for the System and Places would be through Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with scrutiny undertaken by Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and further acknowledges that the MoU needs also to recognise the role and expectations of NHS regulatory functions.

The MoU shall commence on the date of signature of the Partners. It shall be reviewed within its first year of operation to ensure it remains consistent with the evolving requirements of the Partnership as an Integrated Care System. It shall

thereafter be subject to an annual review of the arrangements by the Partnership Board.

The MoU has been supported at the MSE Partnership Board and the Thurrock Health and Well-Being Board. It is currently being considered by the respective CCGs and Trust Boards.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee members note and comment on the Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Since the creation of the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership, the way system partners work has been further strengthened by a shared commitment to deliver the best care and outcomes possible for the 1.2 million people living in our area. We have recently published our 5-Year Strategy and Delivery Plan which outlines our vision and ambitions and refreshes our commitment to working together for the benefit of our residents.

2.2 The Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership have a number of lines of accountability – to each other, as partners, to our residents and service users and, for NHS partners, to government through NHS England and NHS Improvement. Through that route, two key expectations for systems have been identified:

- That we will work together to agree and deliver a **coordinated programme of transformational change**, to secure the long-term sustainability, ensure local delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) and to support transformation of health and care at System, Place and Locality.
- That we will **collectively manage system performance**, noting that individual organisations retain individual statutory accountabilities.

2.3 The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been created, at **Appendix 1**, to strengthen existing joint working arrangements and support our future development. This document is in two parts:

- Memorandum of Understanding – that provides an overview of the Partnership, its vision and priorities, principles for integrated working and a description of the functions at System, Place and Locality/Primary Care Network.
- Ways of working - that provides an overview of the governance arrangements and expectations for mutual accountability and collective agreement.

2.4 The recent Simon Stevens letter (31 July 2020) was clear that as part of the re-start / reset process it is the ambition of the NHS that every area become a fully-fledged ICS by 1st April 2021. The recruitment process for the Single Joint Accountable Officer is taking place in early September and again an update will

be provided at the HOSC meeting. These processes, along with the MoU are seen by NHS England as key components to becoming an Integrated Care System.

- 2.5 As a result of the COVID pandemic, work was paused on the proposal to establish a single CCG across Mid and South Essex. That work has not formally restarted although this remains the nationally direction of travel. The recruitment process into the CCG Joint Executive Team is currently underway and again an update will be provided at the HOSC meeting. Any application to merge the CCGs will not happen until September 2021.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis

- 3.1 The MOU provides a commitment across strategic partners to work together and undertake the planning and commissioning of services at the most appropriate geographical level.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The MOU provides a commitment across strategic partners to work together and undertake the planning and commissioning of services at the most appropriate geographical level.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The following partners have been engaged and consulted during the development of the MOU:
- Local Authorities and Health Overview and Scrutiny's across Essex, Southend and Thurrock
 - NHS Commissioners representing Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership
 - NHS Service Providers including NELFT, Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust and East of England Ambulance Trust
 - Other key partners including the local Healthwatch service within Thurrock, Southend and Essex and the CVS

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact.

- 6.1 The MOU helps to establish roles and responsibilities of local partners and will inform the future planning, commissioning and delivery of health and care services within Thurrock and across the wider Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership footprint.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**

Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health

This report sets out a governance arrangements across Mid and South Essex and as such there are no direct financial implications.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**

Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health

The MoU is not a legal contract. It is not intended to be legally binding and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the Partners from this MoU. It is a formal understanding between all of the Partners who have each entered into this MoU intending to honour all their obligations under it.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**

Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

None.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report

None

9. Appendices to this report

Appendix 1 - Memorandum of Understanding and Ways of Working

Report Author:

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Mark Tebbs, Interim Deputy Accountable Officer, Thurrock CCG