

Southend Healthwatch Annual Report 2020

NHS 5 Year Plan update

How did we get to where we are now?

The NHS reorganised in 2013 to create Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) for each area to involve GPs and bring the purchase of services more local.

In 2018 Southend CCG and Rochford & Castle Point came together with a joint management structure to save money, reduce duplication and simplify pathways for staff and residents. They still operate as separate CCGs.

Problems Identified

CCGs identified separate priorities that created difficulties in commissioning services covering a wider area than that covered by an individual CCG. Hospitals, ambulance services and mental health services are some of these.

Some inconsistencies were also identified in the current health and social services systems for example:

- A significant difference in life expectation for people living in adjacent areas.
- People presenting to the NHS with serious conditions that would have been less serious had they been identified earlier. Especially those who are frail and elderly.

These are particular examples that have been selected as a priority to seek to improve.

What's to be Done?

The NHS Long Term Plan lists a number of important ambitions for the next few years, but central to the delivery of all of them will be the need to work together. See <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/> for full details.

Southend is part of the Mid and South Essex area (MSE) with 3 hospitals, in Chelmsford, Basildon and Southend. The hospitals have merged under one administration and will concentrate some treatment for advanced cases in one of these. For example, the Cardiac unit at Basildon has dealt with serious heart complaints for some time and is recognised as a UK leader in cardiac treatment.

Forming a Partnership of Care

It is realised that hospitals are not the only agents in raising the health of the population. Primary care, social care, organised by Councils, community and voluntary services all play an essential role. Southend Council has increased the level of engagement of their Integrated Commissioning team, working closely with local partners including the CCG, voluntary, and community organisations to focus on delivering better joined up care.

A new NHS organisational structure is being developed. The GP surgeries we all use were grouped into Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in 2019, each with a Clinical Director. There are 5 PCNs in Southend: North Road Plus, Southend Central, Southend East, West Central and West Leigh. The CCG website gives details <https://southendccg.nhs.uk/about-us/pcn> . There are 28 PCNs in Mid and South Essex.

Extra Local Resources

Each PCN has the opportunity to employ a range of additional staff to offer extra services depending on the needs of the local area. For 2020/21, each PCN can choose from; pharmacy technicians, care co-ordinators, health coaches, dietitians, podiatrists and occupational therapists. It is hoped that this extra local resource will start to address the priority to improve the health inequalities highlighted above.

A consultation on merging the 5 CCGs into one for Mid and South East Essex was put on hold due to Covid 19. Four separate “Place” organisations are being formed, for, South East Essex (including Southend, Rochford and Castle Point), Thurrock, Basildon and Brentwood, and Mid Essex.

The 4 Place organisations will give support to the PCNs in their district and monitor health factors over their area. A [Locality Strategy \(Living Well in Thriving Communities\)](#) also sets out the principles of collaborative working in south east Essex. The approach is based around the needs and locations of people, rather than the boundaries of organisations and will focus on prevention and supporting the strengths of communities and individuals.

The Central Management System for Mid and South Essex

The central management structure for Mid and South Essex is a “System”, with an Executive Structure run by a Partnership Board, formed from representatives from NHS Partners, Southend, Thurrock and Essex Councils, Representatives from Community and Voluntary Services and the 3 Healthwatches from Southend, Thurrock and Essex. The Board will set strategic objectives and allocate funds to all agents delivering services within Mid and South Essex.

Implementation

The circumstances of the Covid – 19 Pandemic has affected progress of the reorganisation but the structures above are either in place or will be embedded over the next 12 months.

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