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**Health in Dacorum  
Agenda**

**Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 6.30 pm**

**Conference Room 2 - The Forum**

*Scrutiny making a positive difference: Member led and independent, Overview & Scrutiny Committee promote service improvements, influence policy development & hold Executive to account for the benefit of the Community of Dacorum.*

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Allen  
Councillor Beauchamp  
Councillor Bhinder (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Durrant  
Councillor Guest (Chairman)

Councillor Hollinghurst  
Councillor Johnson  
Councillor Maddern  
Councillor Sinha  
Councillor Symington

Substitute Members:  
Councillors

Outside Representatives:

Contributors:

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support

**AGENDA**

**1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes from the previous meeting

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered -

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent

and, if the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest, or a personal interest which is also prejudicial

- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter (and must withdraw to the public seating area) unless they have been granted a dispensation.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Members' Register of Interests, or is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal and prejudicial interests are defined in Part 2 of the Code of Conduct For Members

[If a member is in any doubt as to whether they have an interest which should be declared they should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the start of the meeting]

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

An opportunity for members of the public to make statements or ask questions in accordance with the rules as to public participation

### **5. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Presented by Jim McManus  
Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council.

### **6. WEST HERTS HOSPITAL ESTATES UPDATE**

Presented by Helen Brown  
Deputy Chief Executive  
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

### **7. COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT (Pages 3 - 4)**

### **8. COUNTY COUNCIL ADULT CARE SERVICES REPORT (Pages 5 - 6)**

### **9. WARD ISSUES**

### **10. WORK PROGRAMME**

## **Report of the Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee for the Health in Dacorum Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) met on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

At this meeting it considered a report on the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report which found EEAST overall “requiring improvement”. In response to member questions about ambulance queuing and handover delays, the Committee was informed that a member of EEAST staff works within hospitals’ A&E departments to speed up the handover process. It was noted that EEAST was working with Fire & Rescue and the military to increase response to patients in the community.

There were further questions on the impact on sickness absence and mental health, whether other ambulance trusts were experiencing sexual harassment and bullying issues, how was EEAST drilling down the cultural issues at a local level and what alternative pathways were available for the mental health triage centre.

The Chairman requested an update at an appropriate time.

The HSC received an update on recent engagement undertaken by NHS England/NHS Improvement about the future of services at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC). A patient and public consultation supported a single site model. Patients highlighted that some tests and treatments such as blood tests, chemotherapy and radiotherapy could be done locally. It was noted that chemotherapy was conducted at a number of district general hospitals and the NHS was exploring how to do more locally.

The HSC received an update on progress in implementing a hub and spoke” model for vascular services in Herts and west Essex.

The HSC received an update on the Integrated Care System (ICS) for Herts and West Essex. It updated members on the impact of Covid-19 on services and how recovery was progressing. The ICS provided information on several areas identified by members including staffing, the Mental Health Integrated Care Partnership and the Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) for East & North Herts and Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Groups (ENHCCG and HVCCG).

The HSC received a report updating members on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Action Plan. The update informed members that there would be a series of webinars for BAME communities in January and February 2021, which would include Covid-19 education.

A Topic Group meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to discuss the West Herts. Hospital Trust (WHHT) estate. The Topic Group did not consider the decision to continue with acute hospital provision centralised on the Watford site as WHHT had already made this decision. The discussion centred around whether the proposals were a substantial variation in service. The Topic Group concluded that the proposal to rebuild or refurbish the WHHT estate was not a substantial variation in service or development of the health service in Hertfordshire and therefore should not be called in to the Secretary of State.

Unfortunately I was unavailable to attend the meeting because I was practising as a healthcare professional. I believe that the proposals are a substantial change in service. Had I been able to attend the meeting, I would have argued and voted that they were a substantial change in service and to be referred to the Secretary of State.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest

## **Adult Care Services Report for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Herts. County Council (HCC) has supported care homes with the cost of PPE, extra staffing and support to care providers facing financial difficulties. In its' 2021/22 Budget, HCC exceeded the Real Living Wage for careworkers.

HCC's trading company, Herts at Home, which was set up to step in when a care provider fails had not initially found it practical to recruit employees made redundant from other sectors such as hospitality because of the considerable investment and training required by staff. However at the December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting of the Adult Care and Health (ACS) Panel it was reported that this was changing. Positive feedback was received from those changing career into the care sector that they welcomed their new roles.

There had been a significant decrease in Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However HCC officers were working closely with CQC staff to advise of any concerns that may arise and sharing data as appropriate to enable the CQC to undertake targeted assessments as required.

At the December 2020 meeting, the number of care homes rated as requiring improvement or inadequate was not unusual for the point in the performance cycle, and the number would decrease as the year progressed and measures were put in place to address concerns raised.

At the December 2020 meeting, statistics indicated increased waiting times for hospital discharges and assessments. Covid-19 meant that discharges and assessments had to be conducted differently, resulting in a lower number achieved within target. HCC officers had placed additional resources into this service. It was acknowledged that Covid restrictions would continue to present challenges with face to face assessments.

HCC is progressing a new Dementia Strategy, but Covid-19 meant that the five-year strategy had been postponed in favour of a one-year interim action plan. The importance of encouraging anyone who suspected that they or a family member had symptoms of dementia to contact their GP or ACS was noted.

HCC has an Adult Care Services – Winter Plan which was set out following discussion and engagement with stakeholders. The second wave of Covid-19 impacted heavily on those in Herts with care and support needs. ACS has been working intensively to support people during this time whilst holding as far as possible to the aims of the winter plan.

At its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, the ACS Panel received an update on domestic abuse, which included the Domestic Abuse Bill, expected to receive Royal Assent in spring 2021. The Bill places on county councils and unitary authorities, the duty to create Local Partnership Boards to oversee domestic abuse and safe accommodation services, develop a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and provide support to victims and their children in safe accommodation. These duties will come into effect on 01.04.21.

HCC published its' Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2016, to be led and delivered through a multi-agency structure, including borough councils.

The Government has published guidance that the instruction to stay at home during the Covid-19 pandemic does not apply if someone needs to leave their home to escape domestic abuse. However Police recorded crime data shows an increase in offences flagged as domestic abuse-related during the pandemic and there has generally been an increased demand for victim services.

The "Ask for Ani" scheme has been launched in community pharmacies whereby a victim can "Ask for Ani" at the counter and be taken into the consulting room to contact specialist support services.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest