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Community Leadership Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

30 November 2020

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,
HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2020 AT 7.30 PM
THE LINK TO LIVE STREAM IS AVAILABLE VIA
[HTTPS://WWW.TENDRINGDC.GOV.UK](https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk)**

Present:	Councillors Skeels (Chairman), Chittock (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Amos, Davidson, Davis, King, Knowles, Steady and M Stephenson
Also Present:	Councillor McWilliams
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Keith Simmons (Head of Democratic Services and Elections), Anastasia Simpson (Assistant Director (Partnerships)), John Fox (Public Health, Wellbeing & Environmental Protection Manager), Karen Townshend (Licensing Manager) and Keith Durran (Democratic Services Officer),
Also in Attendance:	Pam Green (Chief Operating Officer for the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group), Dr Mike Gogarty (Essex County Council's Director Public Health) and Melanie Hammond (Chief Officer at Tendring Citizen's Advice Bureau)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee (Councillor Skeels) (with no substitute) and Councillors Clifton (with Councillor Knowles substituting) and Miles (with Councillor M Stephenson substituting).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on Monday 28 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none on this occasion.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 38

On this occasion no Councillor had submitted notice of a question.

5. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - A.1 - HEALTH PROVISION AND CARE RESPONSE

Further to the meeting of the Committee held on 13 January 2020 (Minute 84 refers) the Committee was updated around deprivation, health measures and the proposed integrated neighbourhood team for Tendring South. Also included was funding for primary care on the Clacton Hospital site and the operation of GP services from Kennedy House. The meeting was also to consider the Covid-19 measures to control

spread and identify those most at risk and how to protect them and to also consider the role of community groups and volunteers.

The Committee heard that its previous meeting on health had been in January 2020 and although a number of updates were required to be brought forward at that meeting the overriding piece of work undertaken since that time, by all partners including health, had been in relation to the Covid-19 response. Only a limited amount of progress had been made before the first wave struck and then available resources were all focussed on the appropriate Covid-19 response, although the later summer period had allowed for some return towards more normal operations the main focus now was again on the Covid-19 response.

It was reported to Members that the main body of work undertaken in respect of deprivation was the focus on the deprived areas in respect of the Covid-19 response since those in more deprived areas had suffered worse health outcomes. Work had been undertaken to ensure parity of access to services and in particular the community response involved ensuring that those most in need could still access essential services such as medication or food.

Members were updated that the outline business case for the Primary Care Hub at Clacton Hospital was proceeding with a proposed submission to NHS England/Improvement in December 2020 with approval expected to take 3 months. The Hub would provide opportunities for integrated working across multiple partners and would also provide improved accommodation elsewhere on the site. That development had been co-designed with two GP practices from the start in order to ensure that the needs of residents and staff were met. Building works were progressing at Kennedy House and the handover was due to take place in March 2021 and that would align with the timeline for the completion of the current Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) procurement.

It was reported to the Committee that work had continued on the neighbourhood team model although it had been somewhat delayed due to Covid-19. On that basis the initial neighbourhood team site was being set up within central Colchester. There were six teams proposed across the North Essex footprint. Following the setting up of the initial site in the winter of 2020/21 the other sites would be set up during 2021. A Senior Responsible Officer had been appointed and engagement with partners had been undertaken to ensure the effective mobilisation of the neighbourhood teams and for example a wider stakeholder workshop was to be undertaken on 2 December 2020 to move that forward.

The Committee heard that significant work had been undertaken by all partners in respect of the Covid-19 response and the Public Health Team at Essex County Council had led the public health response. That had involved the development of an Outbreak Control Plan in respect of Covid-19 which had been implemented effectively and that had included support from district and borough councils in Essex. Weekly Health Protection Board meetings had also been undertaken to ensure the response was appropriate and targeted.

The Committee was updated that The Essex Wellbeing Service had also been developed to ensure that residents were effectively supported and particularly those most at risk. The team had also been integral to supporting track and trace and ensuring

that there was support, engagement and enforcement where necessary to assist in controlling the spread of Covid-19. In addition that had included supporting in investigating outbreaks and providing appropriate advice.

Members heard that the work undertaken during the initial lockdown period had provided for an effective response which was being used in an ongoing way and being further developed in the light of ongoing changes. The flu vaccination programme had neared completion and had been effectively delivered. In terms of the community response to support those who were vulnerable, the focus was on deprived areas and also the wider rural areas which were more difficult to access or where residents had more difficulty accessing on line support. The Council had quickly aligned some temporary roles to support those groups that provided a call and advice reception and made proactive calls.

The Committee was informed that a raft of local voluntary groups had been formed and those contacts had been audited to understand their capacity and capability which had then been fed into a new database and App that would match community demands to the developing volunteer base. With 6500 Category A residents appropriate advice and support had been offered by the community groups coordinated through the Community Hub with a focus on actual vulnerability of individuals to ensure resources were deployed appropriately in a flexible and tailored way considering the different needs across the District. Volunteer groups locally had been supplemented by Essex Welfare Service volunteers which numbered about one hundred and with the local share of NHS volunteers for the Tendring area there had been sufficient assistance available to meet requests for assistance received.

The Operation Shield helpline set up by the Council had dealt with in excess of 2500 incoming calls and had made 3000 outgoing calls and there had been over 50 personal visits to ensure residents most at need had been appropriately supported.

After a very in-depth discussion it was moved by Councillor Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Davis that it is **RECOMMENDED** to **CABINET** that:

- The suggestion from the Chief Operating Officer for the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to create a forum across North East Essex that will allow Councillors to communicate the views of their constituents with the GP practice leads directly be supported and the CCG urged to implement this as soon as possible.
- the continued hard work of the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and local NHS providers, Dr Gogarty and the Public Health team at Essex County Council as well as this Council's redeployed/redirected staff supporting those in need due to Covid-19 restrictions be recognised.

The urgent need to establish an integrated neighbourhood primary care network in the Tendring South Area (covering parts of Clacton and Jaywick Sands) be recorded and representations made to the CCG to ensure there is no further slippage in its development (as this was to have been the first such primary care network in the CCG's area in view of the health inequalities in that Area and for understandable reasons the CCG had had to prioritise the setting up of a network in Central Colchester first).

It was also **RESOLVED** that the kind offer of Chief Operating Officer for the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to share with the Committee information obtained from the various engagement processes the CCG have carried out in the community (as referenced in her report to the Committee) be accepted and consideration be given at a future meeting of the Committee as to when to enquire further in respect of the many measures it was advised were underway locally to improve health services locally.

6. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR PARTNERSHIPS A.2 - TENDRING MENTAL HEALTH HUB

The Committee heard how the Mental Health Hub had been launched by the Tendring branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in 2015 with support from Active Essex, Essex County Council, Essex's Police and Crime Commissioner and Tendring District Council.

The hub, located in Clacton, offered an easy single point of entry for referrals from GPs, health professionals, police, and self-referrals. The idea of the hub was to carry out "holistic assessments" of people with mental ill health taking into account all the various factors behind their situation and point them in the right direction for help.

It was reported to Members that the hub was also staffed mainly by volunteers who had experience of mental ill-health issues, including problems with homelessness, social isolation or income, and helped to give them the confidence to go on to volunteer elsewhere. Volunteers also gained key personal skills, had social contact, and made friends.

More than 20% of the volunteers had gone on to mainstream charities, while 12% had gone on to paid employment.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Councillor Chittock and seconded by Councillor Davis that is **RECOMMENDED** to **CABINET** that:

- the suggestion from the Chief Officer at Tendring Citizen's Advice Bureau that the Mental Health Hub services/reach could be expanded if premises closer to the Town Centre in Clacton could be found be actively supported.
- It was also **RESOLVED** to record the support of the Committee for the hard work carried out by the Citizens Advice Bureau, and its officer, staff and volunteers in delivering the Mental Health Hub in Clacton to address, in part, the challenges of mental health locally.

7. REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS AND DELIVERY - A.3 - LICENSED PREMISES – LICENSING ACT 2003

The Committee was provided with information in respect of premises that were licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. Those Premises were required by law to meet the four licensing objectives which were:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Breaches of the above objectives could lead to suspension, further imposed conditions or revocation of the licence permitting licensable activities by the Council's Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee.

Members heard that standard compliance checks of premises were conducted by the Licensing Section in addition to any enforcement visits that arose as a result of any reported incidents. Those were investigated by the department and relevant action was taken if required. Regular night time economy checks were also conducted alongside Essex Police (though those operations had reduced in frequency during the Covid 19 pandemic due to resource factors, alternative tasking and safety considerations). During the pandemic, a shift had meant partnership work with the Police had focused on business and premises compliance in line with current Covid 19 regulations.

Members also heard that a good multi-agency working relationship had been established with responsible authorities and several joint agency initiatives and premises visits had taken place, including with Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Immigration Services. Those visits predominantly focused on standard licensing objectives, but could be "focus specific" due to a particular concern from intelligence or information received. That could include, but was not exhaustive of breach of fire safety regulations and illegal workers. The responsible authority would act as the lead agency with support from the other involved agencies.

The Committee was informed of the virtual relationship with Trading Standards, who were the lead authority for under age sales and would conduct test purchases at their discretion (test purchases had been temporarily unavailable/reduced due to the Covid 19 pandemic). The results were then fed to the Licensing Authority (Tendring District Council) for appropriate action if required. The Licensing Authority worked alongside internal Responsible Authorities such as the Environmental Health and Protection department.

2020 had seen the review of the premises licences for the following licensed premises by the Premises and Personal Licences Sub Committee:

Great Gurkha – A multi-agency operation led by the Immigration service with support from the Licensing Authority and Essex Police. A total of 3 illegal workers had been found to be working within the premises. The Premises / Personal Licences Sub-Committee decision was that the licence be revoked as that was not a first offence of that nature at that premises.

Truth – A review had been called by Essex Police due to the licensing objective of crime and disorder not being upheld after the premises had operated against the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 that had been applicable at the time of offence, in that it had operated as a nightclub. The Premises and Personal Licences Sub Committee's decision was that the licence be suspended for a period of three months (the maximum suspension period) and further conditions imposed - including additional SIA registered security staff, no outside music and CCTV to be held for 31 days.

Kassaba – A review had been called by Essex Police, supported by the Licensing Authority and Environmental Protection Team as Responsible Authorities, due to the

licensing objectives of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance not being upheld, after numerous Police attendances as a result of disturbances. The Premises and Personal Licences Sub-Committee's decision was that the licence be suspended for a period of three months and further conditions be imposed - including third party contracted SIA registered security staff, no outside music, no off sales, CCTV to be held for 31 days and a revision of opening hours (at the time of writing the respondents still had the opportunity to appeal the decision at the Magistrates' Court).

The Committee heard that several engagements and visits had been conducted at premises across the District throughout the pandemic to ensure that all were complying with the Coronavirus Regulations. Advice and liaison had been available throughout the pandemic with premises and the Licensing Authority, meaning that many potential issues had been addressed and solved in the first instance before any escalation to enforcement.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report and to record the Committee's thanks to the Licensing Manager and the Licensing Team for their continued hard work throughout the Covid-19 restrictions/lockdown.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9. SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED DECISIONS

Pursuant to the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13, the Committee reviewed any new and / or amended published forthcoming decisions relevant to its terms of reference with a view to deciding whether it wished to enquire into any such decision before it was taken.

The Committee discussed the proposed decisions and **RESOLVED** that contents of the report be noted.

10. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020/21

Members considered the Work Programme 2020/21 that outlined the scrutiny to be undertaken by the Committee in the remainder of that Municipal Year.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.15 pm

Chairman