

Report to: East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Date of meeting: 29 November 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Winter Planning in East Sussex

Purpose: To provide an update on planning across East Sussex to deal with seasonal demand surges, extreme weather and other issues associated with the winter months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the local preparations for winter pressures

1 Background

1.1 Health services come under greater pressure during the winter period due to the ill effects of colder weather on people's health. Local health commissioner and provider organisations work together through a Local A&E Delivery Board (LAEDB) to develop plans to mitigate against this increase in demand for their services.

1.2 The issues facing the health service in recent years – such as an aging population, tightening funding, and difficulties with the recruitment and retention of staff – have led to increasingly severe pressure on health services across the country during the winter period.

1.3 At the September 2018 HOSC meeting, members agreed to request a report on how NHS organisations in East Sussex are planning to deal with additional pressures over the 2018-19 winter period.

2. Supporting information

2.1. Winter planning is co-ordinated by a LAEDB. Patient flows mean that the East Sussex population is the responsibility of the East Sussex Better Together LAEDB as well as the Brighton and Hove LAEDB and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells LAEDB.

2.2. A LAEDB's core responsibilities are as follows:

- Developing plans for winter resilience and ensuring effective system wide surge and escalation processes exist;
- Supporting whole-system planning (including with local authorities) and ownership of the discharge process
- Participating in the planning and operations for local ambulance services
- Participating in the planning and operations of NHS 111 services including oversight of local Directory of Services development
- Agreeing deployment of any winter monies.

2.3. Each LAEDB is responsible for developing a comprehensive plan for winter and the development of these plans starts immediately following the previous winter on a continual cycle. All LAEDBs submit their winter plans to the NHS England Regional team in August for assurance review. The plans are then finalised and signed off by all LAEDBs by 30 November 2018.

2.4. The report attached at appendix 1 sets out the LAEDBs plans, including in relation to:

- Lessons learned from last winter
- Key actions and additional capacity being put in place across East Sussex for the winter for primary care, acute hospitals, community services, adult social care, mental health services, and other services.
- Managing Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) and long length of stay patients
- Managing flu over winter
- Winter communications plan
- The system capacity and surge management plans.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on the LAEDB plans to deal with winter pressures as set out in **Appendix 1**.

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