

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

Date of meeting: 28 November 2019

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 report

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 Accident & Emergency 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, pressures on 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 HOSC requested a report on how NHS organisations in East Sussex are planning to deal with additional pressures over the 2019-20 winter period, which lasts from approximately the beginning of December to the end of March

2. Supporting information

2.1. Winter planning in East Sussex is the responsibility of the East Sussex LAEDB, which is a partnership body that brings together health and care commissioners and providers from across the county. The East Sussex LAEDB also works closely with neighbouring systems and providers that deliver care and support for East Sussex patients.

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 2019.

2.4. The report attached at **appendix 1** sets out the East Sussex LAEDB's plans, and covers:

- The objectives of the Winter Plan
- Lessons learned from last winter
- Plans of primary, hospital, community, mental health and ambulance providers and the local authority in anticipation of the winter period.
- Influenza vaccination and outbreak plan
- Communications plan
- System surge and escalation 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**.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Harvey Winder, Democratic Services Officer

Tel. No. 01273 481796

Email: Harvey.winder@eastsussex.gov.uk