

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

Date: **03 December 2015**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **Winter Pressures**

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on health and care system plans to deal with 2015 - 16 winter pressures.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the October 2015 HOSC meeting, members agreed to request a report on system-wide planning to deal with 2015-16 'winter pressures'.
- 1.2 Each Local Health Economy has a 'System Resilience Group', bringing health and social care commissioners and providers together to develop plans to deal with relatively predictable seasonal demand fluctuations as well as less predictable disruptive events such as extreme weather. Patients in East Sussex may receive emergency and other care from one or more of three separate health economies, each of which is the responsibility of the respective SRG. HOSC should therefore be aware that although the SRG is responsible for the East Sussex System, resilience planning for a number of East Sussex patients occurs outside the county borders.
- 1.3 The East Sussex System Resilience Group has produced a paper for the HOSC on East Sussex planning for winter pressures which is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 1.4 There is a significant flow of patients out of East Sussex, particularly to Brighton & Hove (Royal Sussex County) and Kent (Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells) hospitals for A&E and other unscheduled care services. The resilience of services for these patients is the responsibility of the Brighton and Hove, and West Kent SRGs respectively. CCG representatives, and those from provider organisations with cross boundary responsibilities (South East Coast Ambulance Service, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust, Sussex Community Trust) sit on all three SRGS to ensure that Sussex system resilience planning, whilst functionally discrete, is aligned with that of neighbouring health economies. The paper in **Appendix 1** includes details of this work.

2. Conclusion and recommendation

- 2.1 HOSC members are asked to consider and comment on the East Sussex System Resilience Group planning detailed in **Appendix 1**.

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