

East Sussex Health and Social Care System Partnership Board

Key messages from the meeting – 6th August 2020

Background

Launched in September 2019, the System Partnership Board (SPB) is accountable to our East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board which oversees how well we work together as a system, and it will also feed into our Sussex Health and Care Partnership. Through aligning organisational plans across our health, social care and wellbeing system, the focus for the System Partnership Board is to oversee and help shape the following developments:

- *Our East Sussex Health and Social Care Plan, which sets out **what** we need to do to drive the developments required to meet the health and care needs of our population. This is done through agreeing our local priorities for collaboration and our contribution to the wider Sussex Health and Care Partnership strategy to help achieve NHS Long Term Plan ambitions*
- *Our proposals for **how** our organisations can best organise ourselves to deliver our plans as an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) in 2020/21 and beyond*
- *Further developing our approach to population health and social care commissioning in East Sussex to deliver improved **outcomes** and reduce health inequalities*

The membership embraces broader representation to help impact on the wider determinants of health. This includes East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, East Sussex District and Borough Councils, Healthwatch and the voluntary sector, alongside East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and East Sussex County Council as statutory health and social care commissioners, and is now being expanded to invite representation from Primary Care Networks in East Sussex. Everyone on the System Partnership Board (SPB) feeds back to a broader constituency, and we have agreed to capture the key messages from each meeting to support this.

Key messages

The System Partnership Board met again on 6th August to resume work after our planned meetings in April and June were suspended to enable our system to focus on the management of our emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was an opportunity to focus on restarting our system integration work in the context of broader restoration and recovery plans, and the ongoing management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was a welcome opportunity to consider the impacts of COVID-19 after the initial phase of the pandemic, from each of our organisational perspectives. In considering how we can use the future planned meetings of the System Partnership Boards to best effect for the remainder of 2020/21, the following themes were highlighted during discussions:

- We will be working in the context of COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. In addition to the impact on people's health there are wider economic and social impacts of the pandemic for example rising unemployment and financial hardship and social isolation, and this will have a continuing impact on our communities and the types of services and support that people will need, with changes in demand for all of our services that we will need to adapt to. There is a clear role for our System Partnership Board in helping us to agree priorities and coordinate leadership action in our communities on these wider impacts.

- It is also crucial that we maintain and continue to strengthen the strong integrated working that has served us so well in East Sussex in responding to the pandemic, and we will look to work together to hold on to what has worked well from new models and ways of working that have been implemented rapidly in the past few months to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- To support this during the rest of 2020/21 as a System we will need to make links across our revised integration programme between the restoration of healthcare and mental health services, primary, community and urgent care services, social care and the support provided by community hubs and the wider voluntary and community sector, to ensure we can get the most benefit for our population.
- We have seen a rise in the use of digital technology which has been valuable in maintaining contact and services for some of our most vulnerable people, and widening access for others. We will continue to embrace technology, whilst at the same time acknowledging the need to protect the interests of those at risk of digital exclusion to find solutions that can work for everyone.
- Within all of this we need to be realistic about our resources and the ongoing requirements of managing a Pandemic and restoring and recovering services. This will include maintaining the strong, collaborative working ethos and fast paced decision-making and action, that has been seen in our response to COVID-19. We will also be mindful of the ongoing pressures on our staff and volunteers and ensure that we focus on the shared priorities that will add value in this current context, and make sure we carefully balance the momentum and pace of our transformation work with delivering our ongoing response to the Pandemic.

The SPB will meet again in October 2020.

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