

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

Date of meeting: 30 July 2024

By: Deputy Chief Executive

Title: Audiology service provision in East Sussex

Purpose: To provide an overview of audiology service provision in the county

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) consider and comment on the report; and
 - 2) consider whether to further scrutinise any of the areas covered in the report.
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1. Background

1.1 Audiology services are focussed on the assessment, prevention, and treatment of disorders of hearing and balance. Audiology is delivered in a variety of settings, including hospitals and in the community.

1.2 The Committee has been made aware of difficulties some people in East Sussex have in accessing primary and secondary audiological care services and at its meeting on 7 March 2024 requested a report to better understand the issue.

2. Supporting information

2.1. NHS Sussex has produced a report for the HOSC attached as **Appendix 1**. The report covers:

- Commissioning arrangements (acute and community)
- Audiology pathways, including age-related hearing loss
- Earwax services
- Issues of note, including hearing aid services, earwax removal, concerns raised by East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre (ESHRC), East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) audiology and ESHRC
- Interface with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)
- Future commissioning

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The HOSC is recommended to consider the report and decide whether it wishes to further scrutinise any of the areas covered in the report.

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