



Report to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council For Events Community & Leisure Committee Meeting on 7th July 2026

Since our last Report for the meeting held on 14 April 2026 there have been the following significant developments:

The following question was posed to the first substantive meeting of NHS Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 23 April 2026:

“As we celebrate St George’s Day, please may I welcome the highly informative Chief Executive’s Report setting out your initial priorities and giving the detailed guidance about Neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Health. This is complimented by the later Neighbourhood Report. Meeting Pack Page 106 includes the following: “Some of the ways in which the NHS works has undermined confidence from the public Some of the issues with our historic action include D- Constant restructures which prevent the sector and the public from maintaining working relationships.” Members of the ‘old’ Mid Alliance Community Engagement Group have contacted us because they say they don’t know what has been happening with ‘our’ local NHS and two-way communication has been non-existent. These Board papers will be very useful in our informal virtual meeting about this on Wednesday 22nd evening. The Question: What patient and public two-way engagement is being set up for Alliances/new proposed local authority areas and the new 38 Neighbourhoods?

The Chief Executive’s reply was:

‘Thank you for your question and I want to start by emphasising that we absolutely recognise that strong, two-way engagement with people and communities is essential to rebuilding trust, and Essex ICB is committed to ensuring the views of residents are at the centre of our decision-making process.

At neighbourhood level, we are keen to strengthen partnerships with the VCSE [voluntary, community, social enterprise] sector and existing community networks to ensure residents can both shape and respond to local priorities and build more collaborative relationships with trusted community voices.

Following the pre-election period, we will begin wider engagement on our Population Health Improvement Plan to test our ambitions with residents and ensure lived experience informs plans at both system and neighbourhood level. A further update on our approach to working with people and communities will be shared at a future Board meeting. In the meantime, we would like to formally thank groups such as the South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group for their continued commitment to representing local people, strengthening community voice, and supporting constructive dialogue with the NHS and partners.’

On 22 April we held an informal virtual meeting with some members of the previous Mid Alliance Community Engagement Group where we brought them up to date with the reorganisations of the local NHS.

There was a good attendance at the Healthy Lifestyle event at Champions Manor Hall on 30 April. There was also a good attendance at the exhibition before the Annual Town Meeting on 21 April where we had some helpful conversations.

A meeting of the Joint Patient Participation Group at Crouch Vale Medical Centre took place on 20 May. There was a presentation by Penny Collantine, the local Social Prescriber. It was made clear that a large proportion of the population is unaware of her role and that more publicity should be sought. It was suggested that she be given an opportunity to present in the foyer at Crouch Vale where she has made a successful presentation in the past. There was an update from Kingsway. Dr Nadim a salaried GP will start in August. Dr Ali a trainee GP is due next year but is already liaising with Dr Mathew. During April 313 appointments had been missed amounting to over 3000 wasted minutes. At both surgeries, the Covid vaccinations programme has been completed. Surgeries are offering RSV and pneumococcal vaccinations to the over 75s. The PPG is disappointed that no progress appears to have been made in the provision of mobile breast screening to SWF despite the efforts of the HSCG Chair. The Group watched a video about the work of Assistance Dogs and agreed to ask the organisation for a presentation at its next meeting which is scheduled for 19th August.

Good progress has been made with our research project being undertaken in conjunction with Warwick Medical School's MA Pathways to the Public Health Workplace Placement scheme. A 1 minute 49 seconds video and slides can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/nnGLc2EVXX0> which summarises the project. The online survey was launched on 19th May. Despite much publicity the response was lower than hoped so the end date was extended to mid- June. The two focus groups, one for patients and public and the other for providers, were held in May and provided most useful input to the research. The report is being published shortly, hopefully before the meeting on 7 July when it can be reported.

Please see our latest weekly newsletters for Sundays 27th June and 4th July at <https://swfhealthsocial.co.uk/>.

Our Chair continues his involvement in meetings across the NHS which directly impact on our local NHS. Our weekly newsletters continue to be e-circulated to over 300 subscribers. Our contribution to the monthly Issues of Focus is established as a regular item. Our weekly article is published on our website, the Town's social media and is included in our weekly newsletter.

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