



Report to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council For Events Community & Leisure Committee Meeting on 14th April 2026

Since our last Report for the meeting held on 3rd February 2026 there have been the following significant developments:

A very informative recording of our 23 March **Virtual Public Meeting “Will SWF get better health services from 1st April’s NHS changes?”** is on our website at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da74zZMigwE> . Chief Officers told us how NHS Essex, our Hospitals and our Mental Health Trust are changing and improving.

The new Essex-wide NHS organisation that brings together NHS planning and commissioning across the whole of Essex was launched on 1 April. NHS Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) is a new chapter for health, care and partnerships across Essex that will focus on preventing illness and strengthening community and neighbourhood services. As part of the national NHS reform, NHS Essex will:

- focus on prevention and early intervention, not just treatment
- deliver more care in neighbourhoods and community settings
- use data and digital tools intelligently to improve decisions and outcomes
- reduce avoidable differences in health between communities
- ensure every pound of public money delivers maximum value

People can stay informed about the work of NHS Essex by visiting the new website www.essex.icb.nhs.uk and [signing up for regular email news updates](#) and by visiting [Essex Virtual Views](#), the NHS Essex online engagement community, where they can share views and help shape future NHS plans and decisions across Essex.

At this meeting the Chairman was able to pursue his questions about how the Foundation Trust and EPUT were addressing the criticisms levelled in the CQC reports and Lampard Inquiry. Subsequently, the CEO of EPUT, Paul Fox, has accepted a new job as Chief Executive of East Suffolk & North East NHS Foundation Trust which manages both Ipswich and Colchester Hospitals, starting in July. Families of those who have died in the hands of EPUT during the times being investigated in the Lampard Inquiry are very critical of this. Also since our virtual meeting, Mid & South Essex NHS Foundation Trust which manages Basildon, Broomfield and Southend Hospitals, has been put into an “intensive recovery programme” after the Health Secretary said “failure has been tolerated for too long” and a new Chief Executive have been appointed, Adam Sewell-Jones, previously CEO of East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust, which runs Hertford County Hospital, Lister Hospital, Mount Vernon Cancer Center and the new QEII Hospital in Welwyn Garden City.

Our research project being undertaken in conjunction with Warwick Medical School's MA Pathways to the Public Health Workplace Placement scheme, is underway. The ongoing changes to the NHS has made this an 'interesting' experience. We are exploring what patients, carers and patients want from our existing Integrated Neighbourhood Team, and the forthcoming Neighbourhood Health roll out. Our survey and focus groups for this will be happening in the month or so.

Our Chair has constantly been questioning how the new arrangements for the NHS are going to work with the formation of the Essex Integrated Care Board and in particular how they will affect SWF. The very effective working arrangements that we have built up with the Primary Care Network need to be maintained as fast possible.

Thanks to the generous grant from SWFTC, we ran the two free Mental Health Toolkit: Essentials Workshops from Mid & North East Essex Mind in January and February; we have asked that you are shown our full report about that which we recently submitted. We have launched the SWF Community Café at SWF Community Hub. This project is being spearheaded by Citizens Advice Chelmsford, along with us, Mind, the Chair of Livewell Chelmsford, and Chelmsford CVS.

The joint Patient Group at Crouch Vale met at the end of February . An update was provided on the Practices. The accommodation at Wyncroft in Bicknacre has been completely refurbished. This will allow Greenwood Practice to increase its number of clinics. Both Practices have a lost a GP at the end of March and are actively seeking replacements. A new Advanced Nurse Practitioner will be working at Kingsway Practice on Mondays from this month. Members were advised of the new end of life home near Broomfield. Referrals to it are through Farleigh. Patients of the GPs are being encouraged to use the online systems for requesting appointments. In this way they can input their symptoms, which avoids triaging by the reception staff. Greenwood /Wyncroft patients have access to an administration assistant who can help them to understand how to use System Connect. Kingsway patients continue to use Patches which is very user friendly once an account has been set up. The PPG was advised that Mid Essex was starting to send out Lung Health Check invitations to qualifying patients. Also the NHS has begun sending out invitations to register for the Spring Covid vaccinations. The Practices have been unable to secure a local mobile breast screening unit. Patients are invited to attend at Broomfield or a mobile unit sited at Chelmsford Sports Centre.

There is to be an NHS Healthy Lifestyle Drop-in Event to be held by the Primary Care Network at Champions Manor Hall on 30th April from 10.00am to 2pm. Further details will follow.

The Group continues to represent SWF in Livewell Chelmsford and Culture Chelmsford, particularly with its priority of the link between culture and health. SWF Creatives is in partnership with Culture Chelmsford for three projects being delivered over 18 months,

funded by Arts Council England, being Concrete Canvas, Chelmsford Museum Collectives and a Gaming Festival.

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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