



Report to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council For Events Community & Leisure Committee Meeting on 1st September 2026

Since our last Report for the meeting held on 7th July 2026 there have been few significant developments in the height of the summer period.

Serious issues during the last couple of months have included: multiple heatwaves with Red, Amber and Yellow warnings, and their consequences; it is estimated there were 2,877 excess heat-related deaths from the two notable hot weather periods in May and June; the ongoing measles outbreak; Salmonella outbreak. Our weekly articles have also reported improved healthcare performances and services for SWF patients and users, and plans for new developments.

There was a meeting of the Joint Patient Participation Group of Crouch Vale Medical Centre on 19th August. The Group learned that despite efforts of the HSCG Chair, practice staff and SWFTC there was still no progress on the reintroduction of the mobile breast screening in South Woodham Ferrers. They were informed that Dr John Cormack has tried also to seek access to a suitable site for the Unit. It is still a work in progress. A new salaried GP, Dr Nadim has started work for the Kingsway Practice. Helen, a new Advanced Nurse Practitioner will be starting at Greenwood in September. There was considerable discussion about the online services. Kingsway uses Patchs and Greenwood, System Connect for their online and these were working well for many patients. However there were some patients who still struggled to register and use the systems. It was agreed that as the autumn vaccination season approaches the two practices would offer support to patients wanting help to access the systems. There will be a named individual from each practice offering this help. Connor from Greenwood will be asked to produce a step-by-step guide. Vaccination Sessions: Flu clinics will be held from early October for the at risk and over 65 patients. Patients who are over 75 or severely immunocompromised will also be offered the COVID vaccination at the same time. Practices plan to also offer RSV, Pneumo and shingles vaccinations over the autumn/ winter period to eligible patients.

HSCG took part in the inaugural “Heart of the Community” event on 14 July and look forward to contributing to the next one on 13 October.

The following question was posed to the meeting of NHS Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 16 July 2026:

“South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group’s independent academic Report
‘Maldon Central, Dengie & South Woodham Ferrers: Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT)’

Area and Neighbourhood Health Future', to be published very shortly, recommends inter alia that:

- **Measure experienced integration:** Build resident feedback into Neighbourhood Health working. This could include short resident experience questions, community feedback sessions, and checking whether residents experience services as joined-up.
- **Use women's health as a practical neighbourhood pathway model:** Women's health needs often cross several services, so it is a strong example of where neighbourhood models could reduce fragmentation.
- **Strengthen links with schools, councils, housing, welfare advice and VCSE organisations:** Treat prevention as more than clinical monitoring or behaviour change. Neighbourhood Health risks being too clinically narrow if social determinants of health are not connected to local care pathways.
- **Reduce navigation burden for residents with complex or long-term needs:** Provide clearer points of contact, warm referrals, follow-up after referral or discharge, and proactive navigation for residents who need support across multiple services. Keep telephone, face-to-face and supported access routes available alongside online booking, apps and digital consultation tools. Make sure residents know alternative routes exist.

Will NHS Essex take these recommendations into account and work with our group on all the findings of our report to see what can be gleaned from it to help build the necessary neighbourhood health model for our area and all the others in Essex?

"Beverley Flowers, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Health, thanked South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group for the work undertaken. Many of the recommendations aligned closely with the ambitions set out in the PHIP and the ICB's emerging Neighbourhood Health model, particularly the focus on prevention, joined-up care, reducing health inequalities, strengthening partnerships beyond the NHS, and making services easier for residents to navigate.

The report was welcomed and the findings would be reviewed carefully once published. The ICB was committed to developing neighbourhood health with local communities and partners and would be pleased to consider what lessons could be applied not only in South Woodham Ferrers, Maldon and the Dengie, but more broadly across Essex as the approach to neighbourhood-based care was developed.

There were various mechanisms to get involved and provide insight and feedback to inform the work of the ICB. Details could be found on the 'Get Involved' page on the ICBs website."

Unfortunately, publication of this Report has been delayed, along with other things, due to our Chair's bereavement. The Report will be published shortly. Our 2025-26 Annual Report and AGM have also been delayed for the same reason. The Annual Report will be prepared shortly and the AGM held soon thereafter.

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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