



Report to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council For Events Community & Leisure Committee Meeting on 15th July 2025

Since our last Report for the meeting held on 20th May 2025 there have been the following significant developments:

The South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group sponsored academic report entitled “Accessibility to Healthcare Services in South Woodham Ferrers, the Dengie and Maldon” was published on 30th June 2025. This Report has been widely circulated both within and outside the NHS. A meeting of key collaborators to discuss the implications of the Report is scheduled for 11th July. Many of the comments of people surveyed identified the real problems of accessibility to the local services on offer. It is hoped that this important report will inform the decision making involved in implementing the results of the St Peter’s Hospital consultation, although there is an obvious need for earlier investment in improvements in the availability of local health and care services and better transport arrangements where travel to centres of excellence is necessary for patients.

Decisions about the future of St Peter’s Hospital, Maldon, following the consultations and report of the Working Group are due to be made by the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board on 17th July.

The Launch of the 10 Year Health Plan for England sets out steps to make the NHS fit for the future. The three ‘shifts’ are: from hospital to community; from analogue to digital; and from treatment to prevention. Delivering as much as possible locally is akin to the 2008 plan. It must be remembered that the oldest, frailest patients are more analogue users than digital users. Prevention is preferable to cure.

A taskforce is urgently reviewing maternity and neonatal services in ten hospital trusts, including our hospitals at Broomfield, Basildon and Southend, alongside immediate actions to improve care. By December 2025 it will recommend further improvements and inform a new national maternity and neonatal action plan.

The public inquiry into the mental health services in Essex continues.

The HSCG is currently investigating, with others, the provision of welfare activities which could be started/restarted for the Townsfolk. These include a Dementia Cafe, a mental

health café, therapeutic crafts, and cultural activities and various craft pursuits. Other suggestions would be welcomed.

The preparation of the HSCG Annual Report is in hand. Our AGM is to be scheduled for late August and potential key speakers are under consideration.

Recently the Greenwood and Kingsway Practice Managers have encouraged some service providers to give information to patients attending Crouch Vale by being available to meet in the foyer area. An example was a recent exhibition by a representative of the Alzheimer's Society.

NHS England says more than 5million patients have been helped by high-street pharmacies for minor illnesses, bringing care closer to people's homes. An SWF pharmacy is dispensing 30% more prescriptions than at the end of Covid.

The waiting list for routine hospital treatments fell by another 30,000 in April, to the lowest level for 2 years. On 1 May the waiting list was 7.39million cases, 6.23m patients. 4m+ patients are waiting up to 18 weeks. Around 3m patients are waiting between 18 weeks and a year. Around 190,000 patients have been waiting over a year. What a very long way still to go.

Our local hospitals at Broomfield, Basildon & Southend performances in May were:

- 70.5% (66.9% in April) patients were seen within four hours in our emergency departments
- 25 minutes (36 minutes in April) is the average time for ambulances to hand over patients, compared to 27 minutes in the East of England and 38 minutes nationally
- 62.1% (65.5% in April) patients received cancer diagnosis results within 28 days

The HSCG continues to represent SWF in Livewell Chelmsford and Culture Chelmsford, particularly with its priority of the link between culture and health. Other work relates to the radical reorganisation of the local Integrated Care System, devolution, the Essex Caring Communities Commission Report and assisting various research projects being run by others.

Our Chairman has resumed his involvement in meetings across the NHS which directly impact on our local NHS despite some difficult domestic issues. The newsletters continue to be produced weekly and our contribution to the new Focus is now established as a regular piece.

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