

Minutes of the 115th meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group held at 2.00pm on Thursday 2nd December 2021 via Zoom video link

PRESENT:

Dr Mark Timoney (Chair)	-	SELCG Chair Pharmacy
Cllr Richard Smart	-	Local Government
Cllr Terry Andrews	-	Local Government
Dr Jonathan Howe	-	General Practice
Cllr Jenny Palmer	-	Local Government
Cllr Alex Swan	-	Local Government
Ms Kate Fleck	-	Community/Voluntary
Ms Jane McMillan	-	Social Care Lead, HSCB
Mr Nicholas McCrickard	-	Community/Voluntary
Dr Michael Johnson	-	General Practice
Mr Eamon Farrell	-	PHA
Ms Fionnuala McClelland	-	Social Care Lead – Older People Services
Ms Heather McFarlane	-	PHA, AHP Consultant
Ms Anne Marie Fox	-	Social Care – Older People & Safeguarding
Ms Frances Dowds	-	PHA, Health and Wellbeing Improvement, Belfast and South East Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Paul Turley	-	South Eastern Commissioning Lead
Ms Emma Davison	-	South Eastern Commissioning LCG
Ms Sian Campbell	-	Commissioning Officer, South Eastern LCG
Mr Brendan O’Hara	-	Senior Planning & Commissioning Manager (South Eastern LCG)
Mr Paul Kelly	-	HSCB Communications
Mrs Nicola Henderson	-	Corporate Services

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Cllr Sorcha Eastwood	-	Lisburn Castlereagh Councillor
Ms Helen Honeyman	-	Harmony Community Trust, Glebe House
Cllr Ray McKimm	-	Ards and North Down Councillor
Ms Maria Campbell	-	Community Association

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Deirdre Cunningham, Mr Michael Taylor and Dr James McGlew.

146/21	<p><u>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></p> <p>The Chair, Dr Mark Timoney welcomed everyone to the 115th public meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group. He also welcomed members of the public who were in attendance.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the SELCG had a busy morning workshop and had a very encouraging engagement with Ms Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive of the South Eastern Trust around initiatives which are underway to deliver the best possible Health and Social Care services.</p> <p>The Chair noted concerns around COVID and said this has necessitated redeployment of some Health and Social Care staff.</p>	
147/21	<p><u>Chairman's Business</u></p> <p><u>Declaration of Conflict of Interest</u></p> <p>Members confirmed that they had no conflicts of Interest in respect of any of the items on the agenda, as listed, and should any interests arise during discussion they would be declared accordingly.</p> <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was advised by the Chair that the SELCG have received a number of presentations in recent months such as Stroke Services and issues around social prescribing. The Chair advised he had a meeting with the Lead Commissioner in the Health and Social Care Board last week and a meeting is planned with the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer next week around some of the SELCG and ICP agenda items that require a progress update. • Mr Turley advised that on 25th November 2021 DOH published the quarterly report in relation to elective waiting times to the end of September 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately 350,000 people are waiting for a first outpatient appointment. This is an increase of around 2.7% on the previous quarter with just over 52%, 188,000 people waiting for more than 52 weeks. - Approximately 116,000 people are waiting in relation to inpatient and day cases and this represents an increase of almost 3% on the previous quarter and of that 58%, around 67,000 people have been waiting more than 52 weeks. - Approximately 147,000 people are waiting for diagnostic tests and this is an increase of around 1.5% on the previous quarter with 48,000 people waiting more than 26 weeks. 	

- Mr Turley noted that elective care waiting times remain a significant issue. He advised that following a presentation at the morning workshop session by Mr David McCormick from the Performance Management and Service Improvement Directorate within HSCB, and engagement with the South Eastern Trust Chief Executive there are indications that plans are being progressed in terms of the capacity and availability within the South Eastern locality.
- It was advised by Mr Turley that DOH released a press release on 8th October 2021 in relation to investment in GP services. Mr Turley highlighted that there has been significant investment in GP services and that £367m has been invested in primary care services across Northern Ireland which has been uplifted by around 5.8% in the last year. Some of this has gone into pay uplifts for GPs and practice staff but additional sums have gone into the global sum which is a welcome investment.
- Mr Turley advised that DoH have released a statement from the Minister about winter services and winter plans and said the Minister is highlighting the challenging winter ahead in terms of service provision across inpatient services, secondary care, primary care and community care.
- Mr Turley advised that a third quarter Trust Delivery Plan has been received from the South Eastern Trust and this has been reviewed. A fourth quarter report has also been received with regards to preparation for the winter period. Mr Turley will be reporting back to the Trust that the plans appear to be robust and comprehensive.
- Members will have received a Healthy Living Newsletter from the South Eastern Trust's Health Development Department, which shows the health and wellbeing activities that are driving forward both within the Trust and the community and voluntary sector and Mr Turley thought Members will find this interesting.
- Mr Turley referred to correspondence shared with all Local Commissioning Leads with regard to work ongoing with primary care partners in respect of primary care infrastructure and noted significant developments in investments in most GP practices across the South Eastern locality. Some are associated with the development of Multi-Disciplinary Teams and some are long standing estates issues within primary care. Mr Turley highlighted some significant investments include:
 - Montalto Medical Centre is being extended and there is significant investment into this facility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crossgar Surgery is to be significantly extended. - Hillsborough Medical Practice will be significantly expanded. - Stewartstown Road Health Centre will significantly increase in size and this is one of the largest investments. - Bangor Health Centre has undergone a number of upgrades in recent years but there will be a significant upgrade to this facility. - Portaferry Health Centre will be remodelled. <p>Mr Turley noted it is very welcome to see these investments into primary care.</p> <p><u>Engagements</u></p> <p>The Chair advised there will be a regional meeting of LCG members on 8th December 2021. This will be a first point of discussion on the role, function and input of LCG's going into the new financial year, particularly around influencing and designing the new Integrated Care System after the HSCB migrates to DOH at the end of March 2022. The Chair confirmed that at the morning workshop engagement took place with SELCG colleagues about who can participate and the importance of being involved in the development of the new arrangements.</p>	
148/21	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 7th October 2021</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th October 2021 were approved subject to one minor amendment. The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>	
149/21	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley reported that the Acute Services Block at the Ulster Hospital has now opened and services transferred across in early November. The Minister opened the new Block and Mr Turley advised he had had the opportunity to be part of the group at the official opening and was able to walk around some of the areas within the New Acute Services Block. <p>There will be an opportunity for SELCG Members to visit the Acute Services Block on Thursday 16th December 2021 at 10.00am. If Members are interested in a guided tour they should contact Ms Emma Davison or Ms Sian Campbell in the SELCG Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley confirmed that Thursday 13th January 2022 at 10.30am has been secured for SELCG Members to visit the Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre. He advised it has not opened formally yet. Members should contact the 	

	<p>SELCG Office to register their interest in the tour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Turley referred to the previous minutes and a requirement from Members for further detail around elective care services. He advised that a presentation by Mr David McCormick had taken place at the morning workshop regarding some of the work ongoing regionally to address pressures within the system. Mr Turley said Members would be reassured around the regional coordination for elective care and the opportunity to transfer patients between Trusts. He said in the Minister's statement around an Elective Care Framework there was the requirement for very significant sums of funding to be identified to support the elective care backlog and the Minister identified somewhere in the region of £700m to tackle elective waiting times. 	
150/21	<p><u>Cancer Strategy Consultation</u></p> <p>Mr Turley thanked Members for their contribution to the response to the Cancer Strategy Consultation and also thanked Mr Brendan O'Hara who compiled the response on the SELCG's behalf.</p> <p>He advised a discussion took place at the morning workshop. The importance of the Cancer Strategy was underscored with direction for the next ten years for Northern Ireland for cancer services. Some areas of interest were articulated, along with the position around prevention and looking at opportunities around diagnostics and further treatments of cancer and the opportunity to work across Departmental departments in terms of focusing on how cancer can be addressed both at community and organisation levels.</p> <p>Mr Turley noted that within the Strategy there is a particular focus on workforce and he has been asked to be involved with one of the workstreams which is in relation to palliative care.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Members for their contributions to a number of recent consultations and particularly around the Future Planning Model, where an extraordinary meeting was held to capture the views of Members, and more recently the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Mr O'Hara said it was useful to hear the comments from Members. He noted how wide the services to the community are and how this has developed over the last 18 months and the opportunities there might be in the future for community pharmacies to support people, particularly closer to home.</p> <p>Mr Turley echoed his thanks to Members and said these were two important consultation processes.</p>	

Report by Commissioning Lead

- It was advised by Mr Turley that work is ongoing with DOH colleagues to develop the Integrated Care System. The consultation has been completed and SELCG's response has been submitted to DOH. A number of responses across the region have been submitted (120 plus responses) and it is hoped the results will be available before Christmas or early next year.
- Mr Turley advised it was the expectation that Local Commissioning Groups would cease at the same time as HSCB closes on 31st March 2022. He said that on the basis of comments from the Health Committee, the Permanent Secretary has written to advise that Local Commissioning Groups will continue after 31st March 2022, and potentially to September 2022. Referring to the Chair's earlier comments Mr Turley noted the regional meeting of LCG Members due to take place on 8th December 2021.
- Mr Turley advised he has been invited to attend a meeting of the Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Planning Partnership on Thursday 9th December 2021 to provide an update on the New Planning Model. A similar invitation has also been received from Ards and North Down Community Planning Partnership to present to them in the new year.
- Referring to the morning workshop Mr Turley noted that Ms Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive, South Eastern Trust attended and a useful conversation took place and it was interesting to hear her views and that there was positivity in terms of SELCG working with the Trust going forward.

Mr Turley advised a presentation had also taken place at the morning workshop in relation to elective care.

Dr John Winter from the Integrated Care Partnership also attended the morning workshop and an update was provided in relation to the accountability agreement that SELCG has with the Local Integrated Care Partnership and it was good to see progress on a number of areas such as Palliative Care, Stroke Services, Unscheduled Care Services, Mental Health Services, Frailty and Dementia Services.

Mr Turley invited comments from Members

Ms Heather McFarlane said she has recently joined the Public Health Agency as an AHP Consultant and said she found the morning workshop very encouraging, particularly the South Eastern Trust Chief Executive talking about her vision for

health within the South Eastern Area, what health inequalities there are, what gaps there are in the service and how this is managed collectively.

Ms Kate Fleck said she found the presentation refreshing and that the Chief Executive is aware of the challenges within the health service and within the South Eastern Trust and how important it is to listen to develop services around the partnership approach.

The Chair said the South Eastern Trust Chief Executive was candid about the challenges and also the need to manage expectations.

Cllr Palmer said it is about the relationships built with the community and voluntary sector and the local councils. This has made things easier in terms of trying to deliver change within the health service and it is about how we bring along a united voice that supports what we are trying to deliver.

Cllr Smart agreed with the comments and noted the willingness of the Trust to engage and work alongside the community and look at long term issues.

In response to a query from Cllr Smart regarding Ambulatory Care Hubs Mr Turley advised from a commissioning point of view an approach which develops Ambulatory Hubs is supported. He advised there are eight Hubs and in terms of their specialties individuals can be allocated to a Hub area for a particular treatment. Mr Turley advised he had asked Dr Winter at the morning workshop how GPs can directly access into that Hub service which will mean that an individual could be referred directly by their general practitioner and receive the service they require. Mr Turley noted it is a good approach and SELCG will be supporting the No More Silos bid from the Trust which articulates this.

Mr McCrickard commented that the presentation from the South Eastern Trust Chief Executive was excellent and noted the workforce challenges. He thought the model of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams in the Down area may need to be reviewed as a balance is required. He noted that the community and voluntary sector could potentially help with tier 1 and 2 mental health issues and there is some capacity with the potential for expansion. Mr McCrickard also noted the challenge around getting members of the public to back plans and to make sure all regional and sub-regional facilities are well used.

The Chair and Mr Turley thanked Members for their comments.

- Mr Turley referred to the Acute Services Block at the Ulster Hospital and advised there are significant revenue costs associated with this building and the transfer of the services. Mr Turley along with HSCB colleagues are working through the detail of this with the Trust and it is hoped there will be a position paper before Christmas. He said the Block will be opened on a phased basis and advised that many of the acute and surgical wards have moved across from the old building to the new building and Gynae Services may transfer sometime in December. Discussions are taking place around the timing of opening the new Emergency Department and this could potentially transfer across in April / May 2022.
- Mr Turley advised there is a focused approach across the region in relation to Unscheduled Care, Emergency Departments, good flow through wards and hospitals and also ensuring there is good capacity within the community sector to ensure good patient flow. He noted the HSCB Chief Executive is very focussed on this issue and is working with all the LCGs through to the Trusts to ensure that it is understood what has been commissioned. Mr Turley stated there is work ongoing in Emergency Departments to capture patient and staff views and a clinical audit will also be carried out. The Director of Social Care is also doing work to ensure the capacity being commissioned in the independent sector is available to the system and can work as efficiently as possible.
- Mr Turley referred to the No More Silos business case which is connected to Unscheduled Care. The business case has been received from the South Eastern Trust and this is being reviewed. It was noted by Mr Turley that Ambulatory Care Hubs features strongly but it is a pathway approach looking at all aspects of Unscheduled Care across ten key action areas which are described in No More Silos. A regional Strategy Report on Unscheduled Care is expected early in the New Year and this will have an impact on how services in the South Eastern area are shaped in the future.
- Mr Turley referred to the work ongoing in Lagan Valley Hospital in relation to the pressures that the South Eastern Trust identified in respect of their medical grade rotas. He advised DOH have requested that HSCB link in with the Trust to understand the implications. Correspondence has been issued by HSCB to DOH to provide assurance that in terms of the impact of changes there has been no real issue with services at Lagan Valley Hospital.

	<p>Dr Johnston commented that it is important that middle grade doctors are properly remunerated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was advised by Mr Turley that further to discussion with DOH and the South Eastern Trust another area of scrutiny around Lagan Valley Hospital is the effort to re-recruit back into posts and the Trust gave a commitment that they will do this and indicated interviews were due to take place for middle grade posts in late November. The Trust has been asked to provide detail on staff welling and patient well-being. Mr Turley advised that the Trust is engaging with political representatives, and a consultation process will be commencing in the New Year. He noted that members will be interested in this process and it will be built into the February agenda. • Mr Turley referred to the South Eastern Trust Delivery Plan which has been reviewed in relation to quarters three and four and noted HSCB are generally content in relation to critical care bed cover and staff cover over the Christmas and winter period rotas. • Mr Turley advised that South Eastern Trust have confirmed they are aiming for a figure of plus 60% of staff to be vaccinated against flu and noted this figure does not take into account Trust staff that would access flu vaccinations through community pharmacies so the figure will be higher. <p>Mr Turley concluded the Commissioning Lead Report.</p>	<p>Action: Mr P Turley</p>
152/21	<p><u>Questions / Discussion with the public on local health issues</u></p> <p>Speaking as a member of the public Cllr Eastwood thanked Mr Turley for his update and advised she had participated in a meeting with the South Eastern Trust Chief Executive on some the issues outlined. Cllr Eastwood said she is pleased to hear that Mr Turley will be meeting with Community Planning Partnerships.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr Eastwood, Mr Turley advised that in relation to Multi-Disciplinary Teams the timeline for rolling these out is lengthy and is dependent on the funding required. He explained there requires to be a commitment from the GP Federations within each of the localities to support the rollout process. He noted that Multi-Disciplinary Teams are fully rolled out in the Down area. Mr Turley referred to the infrastructure developments within primary care and said this will build into the future for Multi-Disciplinary Teams.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr Eastwood regarding Adult Autism Services Mr Turley advised he saw a news report in relation to Adult</p>	

<p>Autism and this is an area that hasn't been fully recognised within the provision of Autism services. Ms McMillan advised that there is a backlog in assessments and that one of the biggest challenges is once assessments take place then what interventions can be provided. Mr Turley undertook to find out further information on this service and communicate this to Cllr Eastwood.</p> <p>Speaking as a member of the public Cllr Ray McKimm thanked SELCG for the opportunity to observe the work of the group and for the work that SELCG does for local communities. He asked that following the Ministers announcement that £700m would be required to tackle waiting lists if there are any initiatives expected in the short term and are there any indicative dates. Cllr McKimm explained he represents a community in North Down. The elderly population is expected to double between 2014 and 2030 and as they are vulnerable citizens they need urgent action.</p> <p>In response Mr Turley referred to a presentation SELCG received at the morning workshop from a HSCB colleague with responsibility for elective work and waiting lists and he articulated some of the arrangements being put in place associated with the Framework for Elective Care, which is in the context of a ten year plan. Mr Turley advised that there will be opportunities for more cross Trust working, organised on a regional basis. He further advised that Lagan Valley Hospital, as well as providing local services will also provide services in relation to theatres and will become more of a day procedure centre for Northern Ireland. Mr Turley referred to opportunities for the Downe Hospital, again providing a regional service, particularly around Ophthalmology Services.</p> <p>There will be a new Orthopaedic network with more cross Trust working and there is an opportunity as part of the plan to open up what was the military hospital on the Musgrave Park Hospital site to develop that facility, particularly for Orthopaedic day procedures so that the capacity can be expanded. Mr Turley advised that additional amounts of money have being identified this year for elective procedures but this will be non-recurrent money. He said there is an interface with the independent sector which has developed greatly in the last number of years and will continue to be a theme of how services are provided in the future.</p> <p>Cllr McKimm asked if discussions from this meeting can be shared with the community. In response the Chair advised that it is a public meeting and the Health and Social Care Board holds monthly public meetings where they will provide performance reports and that is also available on the website. Mr Turley advised that DOH provide statistics for waiting time and these will be on the Departmental website.</p>	<p>Action: Mr P Turley</p>
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	<p>Speaking as a member of the public Ms Honeyman thanked Members for the opportunity to attend this meeting and said she supports the comments from Mr McCrickard in terms of co-operation of the community and voluntary sector. She advised she works with Harmony Trust and this was set up on a community relations basis but more of the work is now going towards the mental health and wellbeing both with children and their families and older people. Mental Health issues are arising from rural and social isolation issues as well as COVID but they have limited funding and there is a need for discussions about how the community and voluntary sector can help.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr Swan, Mr Turley said that generally speaking procedures carried out within the Health and Social Care system would be cheaper than those provided by the independent sector and confirmed there are costs associated with all of the procedures undertaken.</p> <p>Dr Johnston commented that culturally we are used to attending an Emergency Department or GP close to where we live and increasingly we will have to accept there may be a need to travel. Cllr Palmer said she can see change and patients are more willing to travel.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Members and the members of the public for their helpful comments.</p>	
153/21	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>No items were reported.</p>	
154/21	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd February 2022.</p>	

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____