

Minutes of the 114th meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group held at 2.00pm on Thursday 7th October 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
Dr Michael Johnson	-	General Practice

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Paul Turley	-	South Eastern Commissioning Lead
Ms Emma Davison	-	South Eastern Commissioning LCG
Ms Sian Campbell	-	Commissioning
Mr Brendan O'Hara	-	Senior Planning & Commissioning Manager (South Eastern LCG)
Mrs Nicola Henderson	-	Corporate Services
Ms Fiona Quigg	-	Deputy Commissioning Lead / Regional Stroke Network Co-ordinator

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Cllr Sorcha Eastwood	-	Lisburn Castlereagh Councillor
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	<p><u>APOLOGIES:</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Ms Deirdre Cunningham, Ms Jane McMillan, Ms Nicholas McCrickard, Ms Siobhan Donald, Mr Michael Taylor, Cllr Jenny Palmer and Dr James McGlew.</p>	
137/21	<p><u>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></p> <p>The Chair, Dr Mark Timoney welcomed everyone to the 114th public meeting of the South Eastern Local Commissioning Group. He also welcomed Cllr Sorcha Eastwood who was in attendance as a member of the public.</p> <p>The Chair advised that SELCG had held an informative morning workshop with a presentation on Pharmaceutical Needs</p>	

	<p>Assessment, which detailed how under and over provision and planning for pharmaceutical services could be managed going forward. Discussion took place around how this could be applied to the future planning for wider primary care services.</p> <p>The Chair advised that there was also an update on the planning arrangements going forward in terms of the integrated care system and the completion of the consultation process.</p> <p>The Chair expressed concern that SELCG will not have the same level of essential support from PHA colleagues going forward as individuals are deployed in other areas relating to the pandemic and this could affect discussion at meetings.</p>	
138/21	<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"> The Chair referred to a communication from Northern Pharmacies who are interested in presenting to SELCG via correspondence on the peered review publication on Antibiotic Services from Community Pharmacies that ran in the Belfast area in 2019/20 and advised they would like to garner support for the expansion of such services. This correspondence will be shared with pharmacy colleagues at the HSCB to assist in a response. <p><u>Engagements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair attended the Health and Social Care Board meeting on Thursday 9th September 2021 and noted a very difficult performance report, specifically in regard to elective care. The Chair and Mr O'Hara attended the LCG Chairs meeting on 29th September 2021 and received an update on how the integrated care system is being planned for. 	<p>Action: Ms E Davison</p>
139/21	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 2nd September 2021</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd September 2021 were approved. The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>	

140/21

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chair invited Mr Turley to provide an update on matters arising from the previous minutes.

- Mr Turley referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and reflected how PHA colleagues are challenged in attending SELCG public meetings as they are deployed on initiatives in relation to the pandemic. It is hoped they will be able to attend future meetings in the coming months should the effect of the pandemic recede.
- In response to a query from the Chair, Mr Turley advised Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive of South Eastern Trust has been invited to attend the December meeting of the SELCG.
- Mr Turley advised arrangements are still ongoing for Members to visit the Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre. The centre is not yet commissioned or opened but Mr Turley is hopeful Members will have an opportunity to visit before it formally opens. A communication will be issued once details are known.
- Mr Turley referred to the Acute Services Block at the Ulster Hospital and confirmed that a lot of work has been undertaken with South Eastern Trust in relation to understand the additional revenue costs required to support the opening. He advised a letter of Commissioner Support was issued to South Eastern Trust in November 2019 to take this forward. This was done on the basis that there would be a sizable requirement for additional revenue, and that the level of requirement would continue to be scrutinised with the Trust, with a view to bringing the cost down. Mr Turley advised South Eastern Trust have recently sent through additional updates and these are currently being reviewed. More work will be required and a meeting will take place with the Top Management Team in the Trust. Mr Turley hopes to be in a position to update Members following these discussions so the position can be clarified going forward.
- Mr Turley referred to the consultation on the new planning model and advised that the consultation closed in mid-September. He noted that the LCG put forward a very comprehensive consideration of the consultation document and thanked Members for their contribution. Mr Turley advised that he is a member of the Regional Framework

**Action:
Mr P Turley**

Group for the new planning model and understands that upwards of 150 responses were submitted. The Department of Health are in the process of analysing the responses but Mr Turley said that generally the perception has been very positive in terms of the new planning framework and model.

It was advised by Mr Turley that the Health Committee has just published their report on the Health and Social Care Bill which sets out the changes to the Health and Social Care Board and the development of the new planning model. The Health Committee have articulated in their report that they would like to see Local Commissioning Groups continued on until the new planning model is established through legislation. Mr Turley advised that it will be for the Minister to make the decision around whether he accepts these points.

- Mr Turley made reference to No More Silos and noted that this has been an ongoing theme of discussion with SELCG, with a number of presentations from South Eastern Local Implementation Group over the last number of months. One of the issues that the Implementation Group requires to take forward is the development of a new business case and this is expected to be with SELCG later this month and will feature the rollout of the Phone First model to Lagan Valley Hospital. This is already in place in the Downe Hospital. Mr Turley said the investment for No More Silos was £2.7m and after discussion with the Minister and the Department of Health this has increased to £4.7m per locality which has necessitated a revision to the current No More Silos business case. This is awaited from South Eastern Trust.
- Mr Turley noted the strains around Unscheduled Care Services across the region with ED's under significant pressures. Moving into the winter period it is anticipated there will be increased pressures within the unscheduled care system.
- It was advised by Mr Turley that the Minister made an announcement on the Elective Care Framework for Northern Ireland during the summer period. The Minister identified a requirement for somewhere in the region of £700m to tackle elective waiting times. Mr Turley hopes to facilitate a discussion around elective services, possibly at the December SELCG meeting.

Mr Turley concluded the matters arising and invited any questions from Members.

**Action:
Mr P Turley**

Cllr Andrews thanked Mr Turley for his comprehensive update.

Speaking as a member of the public, Cllr Eastwood thanked Mr Turley and said it will be interesting to see what the Health and Social Care Bill will look like and that the role of the Integrated Care Partnerships will be key. Cllr Eastwood said that any communication around the Phone First service will be welcome to assist members of the public differentiate between Phone First and ringing their GP.

Cllr Eastwood raised the issue of some members of the public having difficulties contacting their GP. She acknowledged that this has been exacerbated by COVID and asked if there is any way to explore additional telephony or to review how patients contact their GPs. Cllr Eastwood advised she has requested a meeting of the Health Working Group in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and this has been scheduled for 20th October 2021. There will be representatives from South Eastern Trust and other statutory agencies. The Chair offered SELCG support to Cllr Eastwood for the meeting on 20th October.

In response Mr Turley clarified that further to Cllr Eastwood's comment regarding the Health Committee's report on the Health and Social Care Bill, this refers to Local Commissioning Groups and not Integrated Care Partnerships.

Mr Turley noted that it is important to differentiate between the Phone First service and telephoning a GP practice. He acknowledged the challenges but noted that as independent contractors each general practice will have its own arrangements in place. Mr Turley advised that HSCB has been working with general practice to improve telephony. He further advised Out of Hours services are run by HSCB through the various Trusts or mutuals and noted the strains within the system in terms of providing the Out of Hours service due to capacity and access to various professionals but generally response times are very good.

Mr Turley said there has been some analysis by DOH and the No More Silos teams around the Phone First model and what has been provided to date has been very positive. He advised that there was been a Phone First model in the Downe Hospital that has been running for a number of months and generally the reception has been very positive both from the public and also from staff.

It was advised by My Turley that it is important to build on this as it is a regional approach and the Minister is focused on bringing this in across the system. He further advised it is up and running in the Northern and Southern Trust areas and is being rolled out in the

South Eastern Trust now and that there are challenges for the Belfast and Western Trust areas in terms of geography issues.

Dr Johnston commented on the Urgent Care and GP Out of Hours services and advised that pressures can be significant due to capacity issues. Dr Johnston said that as services are developed they should be clear and easily accessed.

Dr Howe thanked Cllr Eastwood for her valid points and said it can be difficult to manage perceptions and it is important that patients know GP practices are open. He advised there was a supply and demand issue before COVID and it is about how this is managed going forward.

In response to a query from Cllr Eastwood about managing performance, Dr Howe advised that practices have to submit a weekly return on the number of telephone consultations, patients referred on for tests and the number of face to face consultations. Dr Howe said that as independent contractors, general practices can provide services in whichever way is appropriate for that practice and key performance indicators are also in place.

The Chair said this will remain an area of concern as we progress through a difficult winter. In relation to consultations on Phone First Mr Turley said some further discussions with Councils would be very welcome and that South Eastern Trust will be engaging with stakeholders in the locality in the next number of weeks on this issue.

Ms Fleck asked if the elective care plans are based on a local or regional basis and noted the mental health issues associated with being on a waiting list. In response Mr Turley agreed and advised that waiting lists in Northern Ireland were significantly longer than in other parts of the UK before COVID and are now very significantly higher than other parts of the UK as COVID has progressed. He noted the £700m investment bid for elective care and the issue in terms of delivering this agenda will be around workforce and capacity. Mr Turley said this will likely be taken forward on a regional basis and Lagan Valley Hospital has been identified as one of a number of elective centres for Northern Ireland. This will also require working with the private sector and the Minister has also highlighted cross border options.

Cllr Andrews thanked Dr Howe for his input and advised he has been contacted by constituents with concerns about contacting their GP's and it important to get the message out to the public to advise that it is business as usual.

	<p>The Chair thanked Cllr Andrew and hopes to facilitate HSCB colleagues in primary care services attending a future meeting to give members the opportunity to have a discussion. Cllr Andrews also underlined his support for GP's and frontline services.</p> <p>Cllr Swann commented that perhaps a more consistent approach across general practices is required.</p> <p>Dr Johnston noted there has been a negative media campaign across the UK in relation to GPs and noted there are not enough GP's in the system to provide the services currently demanded. The Chair said pharmacy colleagues reflected these comments around additional demand.</p> <p>Mr Turley referenced the roll out of Multi-Disciplinary Teams to Primary Care to support GPs and practices and will update Members accordingly.</p>	
141/21	<p><u>Stroke Services</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Ms Fiona Quigg, Deputy Commissioning Lead / Regional Stroke Network Co-ordinator to the meeting and introductions took place.</p> <p>Ms Quigg provided members with an overview of Stroke Services in NI. She advised there are two main types of stroke; Ischaemic Stroke and Haemorrhagic Stroke and that ischaemic strokes account for 85% and there were 2490 strokes in 2020/21. Strokes can affect all ages but predominately affect older people. Ms Quigg advised it is a critical service and requires 999 transportation for patients. Acute care for strokes is delivered across eight acute sites in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Ms Quigg explained the two main causes of stroke are blood pressure and atrial fibrillation and said that prevention is essential. The Stroke Pathway in Northern Ireland is prevention, acute care, community rehabilitation and long term support and media initiatives include the FAST campaign. She advised once a patient is admitted to hospital with a suspected stroke ideally a scan should take place within the first 60 minutes, the patient will then be clinically assessed and a decision taken on treatment, with aims for 15% for Thrombolysis and 10% for Thrombectomy. It is planned to expand this service to 24/7. Some patients may require community rehabilitation and there are also long term support services. Ms Quigg advised that The Integrated Care Partnership in the SELCG have piloted a blood pressure pilot through community pharmacies and the outcomes are awaited. There are also opportunities for local councils to get involved and</p>	

a model has been agreed for the spasticity service which South Eastern Trust has agreed to pilot.

Ms Quigg concluded the presentation and invited Members to ask any questions.

The Chair thanked Ms Quigg for an interesting and informative presentation and said SELCG would wish to endorse the rollout of the blood pressure pilot.

Dr Johnston asked about the Thrombectomy service and also asked if any thought has been given to a more dedicated transport service for stroke patients given it is time critical. In response Ms Quigg advised if a stroke is suspected there will be an emergency ambulance and this should go directly. This can be reviewed through monitoring and reported back to NIAS, who also do their own monitoring to ensure any stroke call gets the necessary level of urgency.

In response to Dr Johnston's query regarding Thrombectomy transfers Ms Quigg advised inter-hospital transfer protocols have recently been launched and there are plans to expand the Thrombectomy service to 24/7. Dr Johnston said it is important to identify patients who are good candidates for Thrombectomy.

Cllr Swann asked if it is possible to administer Thrombolysis in the ambulance and if there is any relation to younger stroke patients and COVID. Ms Quigg advised that a patient must first be admitted to hospital for scans before it can be decided if Thrombolysis is appropriate. Ms Quigg said there is not enough research relating to younger stroke patients and COVID to make any conclusions.

Cllr Smart thanked Ms Quigg for the presentation and said that having attended previous consultation events regarding Stroke Services one of the key themes in the North Down and Ards area were delays. He said it will be important to reassure the public that a change in location will deliver better services. Cllr Smart advised that if the Council can help with prevention they would be keen to do so and asked if this could be put in writing to the three Councils to seek support. Ms Quigg advised she will be meeting with the Integrated Care Partnerships and will inquire about potential funding for Councils to map this exercise.

Ms Fleck thanked Ms Quigg for the presentation and said she is interested in rehabilitation and the longer term prospect for people living with stroke, particularly those with other co-morbidities and asked if there is any approach to joined-up working across conditions to improve quality of life. In response Ms Quigg advised

	<p>in terms of post stroke rehabilitation this would be specifically for that stroke condition but that there is a need to look at this in developing the specification for life after stroke and to link in with other networks and that service user and carer input is critical.</p> <p>Cllr Andrews thanked Ms Quigg and agreed with sentiments expressed by Dr Johnston and Cllr Smart. He advised he represents Newry, Mourne and Down which has many rural areas. Given time factors are crucial he hopes there can be more funding invested into NIAS for this service.</p> <p>Cllr Eastwood, speaking as a member of the public said it is concerning to hear of younger stroke patients and asked Ms Quigg what has been her experience with speech and language therapy. In response Ms Quigg advised there is speech and language therapy through area support and discharge in the community stroke teams and The Stroke Association are also commissioned to deliver speech and language therapy beyond the statutory provision and there opportunities for further support.</p> <p>In response to a query from Mr Turley, Ms Quigg advised prevention is an area for review, especially for blood pressure management and atrial fibrillation detection.</p> <p>Dr Howe thanked Ms Quigg and noted how well the TIA service seems to work, and in the Ulster it can be seen how this service has developed. Ms Quigg advised there have been delays with people presenting with minor strokes and the media message has been reinforced.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Quigg and said the SELCG endorse the paths of travel set out and supports the objectives.</p>	
142/21	<p><u>Report by Commissioning Lead</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley advised members that almost £4m will be invested into nursing services across the South Eastern Area. A letter has been issued to the South Eastern Trust outlining the level of investment. Mr Turley noted this is a sizable investment and there will be challenges about identifying the numbers of nurses required. This investment will be replicated across all Trust areas and is part of a £20m package. • Mr Turley advised Members that there are a number of other investments being processed through the SELCG of significant value, particularly around demography investments of around £1m being worked through the South Eastern Trust. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the South Eastern area there is an additional £447k for Unscheduled Care Services to improve patient flow. • There is £336k for the development of ambulatory care services, mostly in the Ulster Hospital. • There will also be a small investment in relation to stroke services. • There is £362k for hospital at home services. The current Enhanced Care at Home model in the South Eastern Trust will develop into a Hospital at Home service which will have more medical input. • There is also a range of regional services that are being taken forward. <p>Mr Turley noted these very positive investments and advised that some of the funding is recurrent and some non-recurrent and that the nursing investment is recurrent funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Turley advised that an update has been received from DOH that the Minister has identified grants for carers groups across Northern Ireland and is around £600k and this comes from a package of £24m which the Minister has made available for cancer services and mental health services and this is very welcome. • Mr Turley noted that the consultation on the Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland is ongoing at the moment. He advised that a consultation afternoon took place this week, with further events planned for today (7th October) and Tuesday 12th October and thought Members may wish to link into one of these events. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Turley for his report.</p>	
143/21	<p><u>Questions / Discussion with the public on local health issues</u></p> <p>The Chair, Dr Timoney invited any questions from the public.</p> <p>Speaking as a member of the public, Cllr Eastwood welcomed the introduction of Multi-Disciplinary Teams in the Lisburn area but had concerns about mental health displacement to other areas.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged Cllr Eastwood's concerns and noted at the morning workshop the investment of £4m into nursing was discussed as to whether there were nurses available to consume the investment.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Smart asked if SELCG are planning on submitting a response to the Pharmacy Needs Assessment consultation which closes on 30th November 2021. The Chair advised it is SELCG's intention to respond. Mr Turley advised the report will be circulated to Members and a communication will be sent to Members to feedback.</p> <p>Cllr Smart thanked the Chair and Mr Turley but said he did have concerns that in relation to Ards and North Down there are some very deprived areas and some affluent areas and the reliance on prescription figures doesn't tell the full story. The Chair will take these comments on board.</p>	<p>Action: Mr P Turley</p>
144/21	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>No items were reported.</p>	
145/21	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that due to pressures it is likely the meeting scheduled for 4 November will be stood down. The next meeting will therefore be 2nd December 2021.</p>	

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____