



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued by Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

Immediate release

Public Discussion Events Launched for NHS Consultation in Mid and South Essex

RESIDENTS across mid and south Essex are being invited to a number of public discussion events to hear more about outline plans for the future of health and care services

The proposals are a result of detailed work undertaken by clinical teams across health and care organisations to improve the services provided to the 1.2 million people living in mid and south Essex, and include:

- Making improvements in A&E at all three hospitals with the development of new assessment and treatment centres alongside each A&E. All three A&Es will be led by a consultant, open 24 hours a day and will receive “blue light” ambulances.
- Develop a new specialist stroke centre which would provide the highest dependency and intensive care for people in the first 72 hours following a stroke alongside rapid access to diagnostics and specialist interventions. This would be in addition to the existing stroke care units at all three hospitals which would remain in place.
- Bring together in one place some specialist inpatient care where there is existing expertise and to allow for extended hours, seven day a week consultant and specialist cover for these services. Clinical evidence from elsewhere shows that this would improve care and the chances of a making a good recovery.
- Separate some planned operations from emergency cases. Some complex orthopaedic operations that need a few days hospital stay could be performed in Southend Hospital for people in south Essex and Braintree Community Hospital for people in mid Essex. This would reduce cancelled operations and rates of infection by separating this type of care from emergency care.
- Moving community services closer to where people live. For example in Thurrock the proposals outline how services currently provided at Orsett Hospital could be provided in four new “integrated medical centres” in Thurrock and existing and new facilities across Basildon and Brentwood.

These changes are alongside the collective intention of health and care services to build up GP and community services and extend the range of professionals and services available via GP practices as part of a bold plan to provide increased care for local communities closer to where they live.

There are 13 public discussion events being held across mid and south Essex over the next two months, with the first held in Chelmsford on Tuesday evening. Information on the next 12 events can be found on the Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) website <http://www.nhsmidandsouthessex.co.uk/have-your-say/events/>, including how to book a place at an event through Eventbrite or by phone on 01245 398118.

There are two events scheduled to take place in Thurrock at the Civic Hall on Blackshots Lane: 6.30pm – 8.30pm on Wednesday 24 January and 1.30pm – 3.30pm on Tuesday 06 March. You can book a place or turn up on the day.

Professor Mike Bewick, independent chair of the CCG Joint Committee which approved the consultation, said: “At each of our discussion events you will be able to hear from senior NHS staff, including clinicians, who have been involved in developing these proposals for service change. But the main aim of these sessions is to explore with you what the proposed changes would mean for patients and families. We want to make sure people who want to be involved and have a say get the chance to do so, and I would urge residents to book a place and make sure their voice is heard.”

ENDS

Notes to editor: