



## **Report to South Woodham Ferrers Town Council**

### **For Events Community & Leisure Committee Meeting on 8 November 2022 and circulation to all SWF Town Councillors**

Since our last report in May a number of key events have occurred.

1. In June the South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group (HSCG)'s funding ceased for the volunteer force who delivered prescriptions and other welfare support during the Covid pandemic. Although this service has terminated it is clear that there are a number of vulnerable and elderly folk in South Woodham Ferrers (SWF) who still need support. We have been in discussion with volunteer organisations in Essex about ways that this support could be continued. The volunteers have still been helping in reduced ways, in particular by stewarding the Covid booster and flu vaccination programmes at Kingsway Surgery.

2. On 14 July we held a successful virtual AGM chaired by the Town Mayor. At the meeting Officers were elected for a further year and the annual report was formally accepted. This was followed by a keynote presentation from the Chief Operating Officer of the combined Mid & South Essex Hospitals Trust. A copy of all the papers, the presentation and the annual report are all available on the website.

3. At the beginning of July, the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group ceased to exist. It has been replaced by the Mid & South Essex Integrated Care System, which includes the new Mid Essex Place & Alliance. This has resulted in major changes to staffing and responsibilities for our health and social care services. HSCG is endeavouring to find the best routes of communication with this new organisation and has developed significant links with key personnel. It has to be said that their centralised Communications Team has not addressed the local communication needs and we are tackling them about these deficiencies. We are trying also to set up better links with our Primary Care Network which hitherto have been rudimentary.

5. In recent weeks we have been meeting Kerry Harding, Mid & South Essex NHS Estates Director, to discuss how best to use the remaining £16000 allocated by developers to aid public transport to Crouch Vale Medical Centre (CVMC). The bulk of the original allocation was used to reroute existing accessible services and Kerry has been trying to liaise with Dart about providing an additional local service. She is awaiting a response from them.

6. Recently Kerry held a review of CVMC with HSCG; this was due to have been held around six months after CVMC opened but was then delayed by the Covid pandemic. The building is working as to how it was planned and built which was before Covid and subsequent suggestions for further housing developments; when built it did include the necessary capacity to cope with the planned Chelmsford City Council development North of Burnham Road. SWF benefited from the most modern local health centre in the country during the pandemic and its excellent infection control will have mitigated the transmission of infections there better than anywhere.

7. HSCG are currently assessing its future funding requirements and potential sources from grants. It may need to come to the Town Council for the reintroduction of their grant which ceased to be given during Covid.

8. HSCG has engaged with SWF's ambulance service, hospitals, mental health trust, Essex County Council's community, public health & social care services, Livewell Chelmsford and others in and beyond Essex. It has also worked on a number of organisational and community development projects, particularly with Mid & South Essex ICS and Mid Essex Place/Alliance. This is a time when patient, service user and public engagement is needed more than ever. HSCG has also been working collaboratively in the development of plans for winter pressures, including the provision of warm bank and other services for SWF.

9. HSCG continues to publish wide ranging, relevant public health and welfare information to the Town on its website, social media and in articles in Focus. The latest weekly update is on the home page at:

<https://swfhealthsocial.co.uk/> .

10. HSCG's 2021-22 Annual Report & Appendices were kindly noted at the ECL meeting held on 6 September 2022. HSCG asks that this meeting on 8 November 2022 accepts this report, agrees the ongoing engagement between HSCG, ECL and SWFTC as a whole, and identify any relevant activities to be considered for action in the coming months.

