



South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group

Annual Report May 2020 – April 2021

OH WHAT A YEAR!

July 2020: AGM, Keynote Guest: Dr Mike Gogarty, Essex Director, Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training

Recruitment of dozen volunteers

23 March – Lockdown 1

5 November – Lockdown 2

6 January – Lockdown 3

1. Background

South Woodham Ferrers (SWF) Healthcare 2000 Group was formed as a Millennium project in 1999. South Woodham Ferrers Town Council (SWFTC) ran quarterly Care Lunches for many years. The increasing close combination of health and social care by the relevant authorities and organisations was recognised. As a result, as described in the next section, this hereditary joint organisation was established to enable SWF to mirror that development.

SWF Healthcare 2000 Group had an excellent reputation and ability to engage with all NHS and social care authorities and organisations at the highest, as well as operational, levels. The new SWF Health & Social Care Group ('the Group') inherited that and built upon it. This continues to give the Group access to, and have the confidence of, the highest-level officials including Councillors holding Cabinet portfolios, Chairs, Non-Executive Directors, Chief Executives and Executive Directors of all relevant health and social care authorities and organisations.

As a result, the Group is able to bring top level speakers and information to SWF. One important reason for this is that we are told attendances at our meetings in SWF attract consistently larger audiences than similar meetings held in Chelmsford and elsewhere. The Group is flexible, adapts to requests from the authorities to fit in with their planning and developmental schedules, holds effective meetings which are purposeful and not held for the sake of meeting. As said later, we have recognised that meetings are no longer as popular nor as well attended as in the past and so have moved to other ways to inform and represent the patients, service users and public of SWF in the full range of health, social care and wellbeing issues.

2. Formation & Governance

Proposals for the establishment of the South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care Group were considered as Agenda Item 106 by SWF Town Council (SWFTC) and the agreement to this was Minuted as Item 106 in the Minutes of SWFTC's Meeting held on 19 April 2016.

The Inaugural Public General Meeting of SWF Health & Social Care Group ("the Group") was held on 28 June 2016. That meeting adopted the Group's Governance, which has been slightly updated at the 2017 and 2018 AGMs

- Appendix 1 is the present Governance document of the Group
- Appendix 2 is the Role Descriptions for the Group's Officers
- Appendix 3 is the Role Description for the Group's Administrator
- Appendix 4 is the Group's financial report for the last year

Our Organisation

South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group (SWF H&SCG) was established to look after the health and social care interests of the people of South Woodham Ferrers, recognising the roles of health and social care related professionals, volunteers and the Patient Participation Groups.

SWF H&SCG incorporates a Task Force, which convenes when consultation or representation is required to consider major health and social care issues affecting the Town.

SWF H&SCG is open to anyone who lives, works, has a local need to access health and social care, or is involved in health and social care in SWF.

It has been clear from the work carried out in preparation for the Crouch Vale Medical Centre, that a closer relationship between the Group and the Patient Participation Groups has many benefits.

Working together enabled a number of significant improvements to the original plan. As the demarcation lines between General Practice and other Primary Care Services become increasingly blurred, it is important that our close collaboration is maintained. Additionally, the COVID-19 Pandemic has emphasised the need for Social Care to be integrated with traditional Primary Care and this gives rise to challenges for both groups.

3. Report

On 8 July 2020, the Group held our AGM virtually with Dr Mike Gogarty, Essex Director, Wellbeing, Public Health & Communities, as keynote speaker. This is reported on our website.

In September 2020 we reported that:

Introduction

Since the last meeting of the Town Council in June the focus of the Health and Social Care Group has been on helping the shielded and vulnerable residents during Covid 19 lockdown.

Covid response

The response organised by Chair Peter and a group of volunteers has been highly effective and much praised. From the onset of lockdown in March to date the number of tasks achieved is 2,504 which is an incredible achievement in the time. The volunteers were recently recognised with letters of commendation and a pin badge recognising their essential volunteering as part of the SWF Health & Social Care Team who have been supporting shielding and isolating people in our Town and surrounds during the COVID-19 pandemic. The commendations come from: Councillor Jude Deakin, Mayor of Chelmsford 2020-2021; Mrs Philip Tolhurst, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex; and, Chelmsford CVS, Centre Supporting Voluntary Action.

Despite the end of shielding support continues to be given to people isolating and without local support networks. Consideration is being given by us and others to preparing for winter pressures and any forthcoming spikes in the pandemic and maintaining our voluntary support capacity.

Virtual meeting with Dan Doherty, Director of Clinical Commissioning, at Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

This virtual meeting was held on 3rd August and involved representatives from the Health and Social Care Group and the Practice Participation Groups (PPG) and Paul Gilham of the MECCG communications team.

There was a discussion about how the GPs at Crouch Vale Medical Centre were coping during the pandemic. It was agreed that whilst things were anything but normal, the Practices were dealing with the pressures well. However, there was a need to communicate better with the public to reassure them that all the services they need are available albeit in a different form. Clearly having such a well laid out purpose-built health centre is a great advantage, allowing for social distancing and other measures to be put in place more readily than in traditional premises.

The PPG representatives reported that there had been little communication during the lockdown. This is not surprising as the restrictions put upon people attending the Centre have been very carefully controlled. There has been a virtual PPG meeting by Greenwood and there is one planned for Brickfields in September. It was agreed that where possible the dialogue between the Practices and their PPGs should be maintained. The new normal has not yet been reached in primary care. When this point is achieved the patients need to be informed fully. It is certain that some of the procedures operated in lockdown will become the new normal in primary care. However, the face-to-face consultation must not be lost. The interaction between the public representatives and the Commissioning Group needs to be reintroduced and it was agreed that a further meeting involving Dan should be held in a few weeks' time. There was some discussion about people shielding and how they could be supported. This differed between areas dependant on who was most knowledgeable about people with needs. Peter said that HSCG was continuing to support the needy

and vulnerable even after the easing of lockdown restrictions. There continues to be an understandable reluctance of some people to venture out. The meeting then went on to discuss the role of the Primary Care Networks (PCN). Again there has been little communication between the local groups and the PCN. It was known however that the PCN was discussing the best ways to deliver local services. There is a danger of decisions being made without a contribution from patient representatives. The PPGs have requested a preliminary discussion with the SWF Director (Dr Mistry) but this has yet to be arranged. There were three outcomes from the meeting.

1. Engagement with the GPs and PCN needs to restart
2. Lessons need to be learnt in preparation for the undoubted winter pressure
3. Dan will brief us in more detail on where the CCG is going and how our voices can be heard locally

Town Nurse Project

This has been on hold but progress is now being made with meetings due imminently. Every effort is being made to try to launch an initial service by the end of this year.

Dying Matters in Essex

The Chair is playing a part in bringing this county-wide consortium of many organisations together to establish a formal organisation as a legal status is necessary for it to progress. The aim is to help address the taboos of dying, death, and bereavement.

In November 2020 we reported that:

Introduction

Since the last meeting of the Town Council in September the focus of the Health & Social Care Group (H&SCG) has continued to be on helping isolating residents without local support networks during Covid.

Covid response

The response delivered by Chair Peter and a group of volunteers has been highly effective and much appreciated. From the onset of Lockdown 1 on 23 March to 7 November 2020 the number of tasks and activities delivered is 4185. The recent crash closing the Village Pharmacy was dreadful. This affected Cheerag and his staff and thousands of patients as the prescription service was so badly damaged. Enormous thanks to Govani Chemist for taking the strain and to Cheerag and his colleagues for doing everything possible. **We ask SWF Town Council to consider with us making representations about the impact of this in any following court case.**

We have witnessed the resurgence of Covid-19 in SWF and surrounds in the last couple of months; this remains an awful virus. We continue to keep the community informed about this, using Focus, our website, weekly bulletin and social media.

We know our voluntary support is wanted for the coming months to support our local NHS and residents as Covid continues and with winter pressures. We continue to work closely with the Town's GPs and pharmacists. We have also been asked to stand ready to help the local NHS in any other ways that become useful by relieving clinicians of appropriate non-medical duties.

Thanks to the Chelmsford Community Hub and CVS we have been granted emergency funding to enable us to continue all we are doing for the six winter months to the end of March 2021.

Engagement with local NHS and Welfare Providers

Patient, Service User and Public Engagement resumed from August and H&SCG has played a full part in this, including with: Mid & South Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups; Mid & South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (for our local hospitals); Essex Partnership Foundation Trust (for mental health); Livewell Chelmsford; Anglia Ruskin University Medical School; East of England Major Trauma Network; Essex Community Foundation; and Queen Mary University of London Centre for Trauma Sciences. Unfortunately, the onset of Lockdown 2 is reducing public engagement again and we hope this will be short-lived.

Town Nurse Project

Unfortunately, efforts to set up a reduced Town Nurse service this month to provide much needed local support for people suffering from the effects of Covid and winter pressures were unsuccessful. This is now postponed until the next opportunity for the necessary training in April 2021. A further planning round for this will start in the New Year.

Dying Matters in Essex

The Chair played a key role in bringing this county-wide consortium of many organisations together to establish a formal organisation with a legal status which has been necessary for it to progress. This enterprise will address the taboos of dying, death and bereavement.

In January 2021 we reported that:

Since the last meeting of the Town Council, the Health & Social Care Group (HSCG) has been mainly concentrating on the provision of services to the elderly and vulnerable affected by the coronavirus lockdown and the isolations. Since the start of the first lockdown on the 23rd March 2020 the group of volunteers, led by the Chair and organised by the Administrator, have delivered 4889 tasks/activities. The recent increase in cases in Essex and subsequent knock-on effect has meant that the demand for help has increased significantly from the beginning of December. Whilst the Group's customers have been mainly in the Town, deliveries have been made as far afield as Wickford, Danbury and Althorne.

The Group who are liaising closely with the MECCG (Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group) and the voluntary services in Chelmsford has been fortunate to secure additional funding via Chelmsford CVS which allows the Administrator to give more hours. The Chair and all the volunteers are, of course, unpaid.

The reputation of the volunteers is such that they have been asked to lend their expertise to other areas of Covid related activity. Advice has been given on testing and the volunteers are standing by to help with the general distribution of vaccine for SWF. Vaccinations will be given to residents in the nationally agreed order and although there has been no firm starting date given it is hoped to start during January. Starting dates given in other areas have not always been met because of distribution problems. CVMC will not only be the centre for vaccinating South Woodham residents, but also those of the Dengie. This is another example of CVMC having the reputation of being a world class health centre.

Although concentration has been on directing the volunteers, the Health & Social Care Group has been active in other ways. Since the last Town Council Meeting there have been virtual meetings with Nigel Leonard, Head of Transformation at EPUT (the Essex mental health authority), and with the Get Involved Group which is a meeting of PPG representatives throughout Mid Essex. There was a meeting with Irene Lewsey who has taken responsibility for community Mental Health issues in SWF. The meeting was particularly concerned with mental health at the local level and the effects

of lockdown on peoples' mental welfare. It followed some extensive lobbying by the Group Chair. Arising out of that meeting there is to be a further meeting with a subset of the HSCG Task Force to look in detail at the needs of local residents and this is scheduled for 21st January.

HSCG plus PPG Chairs have had another in a series of meetings with Dan Doherty. Dan has recently been appointed Alliance Director at the MECCG and he has particular responsibility for overseeing the development and operation of the Primary Care Networks. He is keen that these meetings continue.

Contact has been made with Anthony McKeever who is newly appointed Executive lead at the combined South and Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups. He has agreed to take part in one of our public virtual meetings, to be arranged, to exchange views about the future of Health and Social Care services in SWF

Various media interviews have been given. HSCG is providing regular public information, including posting daily Covid data, on our website (<https://swfhealthsocial.co.uk/>), on various SWF social media groups, in our weekly bulletin (subscription to which we recommend) and in Focus.

Since originally drafted we are now in national Lockdown 3. This will increase our role and workload and we are ready to continue providing all that is asked of us. We are members of the lead group organising volunteer support to the roll out of the Covid vaccination programme by GPs in Mid Essex. The testing scheme for William de Ferrers has now been suspended but we continue to stand ready to provide volunteer support to that in due course. We have prioritised and saved our volunteer capacity for SWF and will continue to do so.

In March 2021 we reported that:

Since the last meeting of the Town Council, the Health & Social Care Group (HSCG) has continued to concentrate on the provision of services to elderly and vulnerable people affected by Coronavirus, isolating and shielding and without local support networks. Since 23rd March 2020 the group of volunteers, led by the Chair and organised by the Administrator, have delivered 5806 tasks/activities. Lockdown 3 and the Major Incident for Essex brought a surge in cases in the Town and a knock-on effect was a significant increase in the demand for help in 2021 Q1. Whilst the Group mainly serves people in the Town, it also goes as far afield as Wickford, Danbury and Althorne.

The Group liaises closely with the MECCG (Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group) and other local health and welfare authorities. Chelmsford CVS has provided funding from Covid emergency schemes towards our costs from 2020 Q4 to 2021 Q2. We are also extremely grateful to SWFTC for a £200 small grant towards our 2021Q1 costs which have been greater than forecast last Autumn when the severity of winter demand was not foreseen. The Officers and all the volunteers are, of course, unpaid.

The vaccination programme has now been rolled out and Crouch Vale Medical Centre (CVMC) had delivered 10,045 doses by the end of February. Vaccinations are given in the nationally agreed order. CVMC is the centre for vaccinating South Woodham residents and those of the Dengie. SWF people are also vaccinated at Basildon, Broomfield and Southend Hospitals and major vaccination hubs such as The Lodge, Runwell. Mass testing centres are also available within reasonable travelling distances.

With schools re-opening on 8 March the next challenge is the necessary testing programme at William de Ferrers School and the arrangements for this are work in progress at the time of writing. HSCG continues to provide regular public information, including posting daily Covid data, on our website (<https://swfhealthsocial.co.uk/>), on various SWF social media groups, in our weekly bulletin (subscription to which we recommend) and in Focus (sadly now published fortnightly) for which we deliver copies along with prescription medications to those outside the Town.

Please see the updated extracts from our weekly statement of 28 February which is appended. Inevitably the local health and welfare authorities have concentrated on Covid issues, and other activities have been largely curtailed. There has been one meeting of the MECCG Patient & Community Representatives Summit which concentrated on Covid issues. Our meetings with Irene Lewsey, who has responsibility for community mental health issues in SWF, particularly concerned with mental health at the local level and the effects of lockdown on peoples' mental welfare, are ongoing after postponements due to the pandemic.

H&SCG is aware of the proposals for a new Mental Health Act and a White Paper on the future of the NHS and plans to hold public events about these important subjects in the coming months. Whilst most non-pandemic issues have been in abeyance H&SCG has continued to play its part in: the development of Dying Matters in Essex; the preparations for Dying Matters Week in May; the East of England Major Trauma Network; and, national major trauma research.

2nd March 2021

Updated extracts from SWFH&SCG statement of 28 February 2021

Some think it's all over; OH NO IT ISN'T! Essex remains in Lockdown3 for COVID-19. The Downing Street Briefing on Friday 26 February was unequivocal. Don't let our guard down. Maintain our discipline. We MUST stick to the rules. People not doing so are jeopardising the 'Roadmap' and risk delaying when restrictions can be eased.

The health system across Greater Essex is stable and back under control. However, it still faces "pressures that persist and the threat has not gone away yet. There is still much to be done." **They need us all to continue to follow the rules."**

New SWF Covid cases fell to 5 in the week ended 15 February, down from the peak of 213 in the week ended 2 January. But they are now increasing again with 11 in the week ended 24 February, reflecting the worrying turnaround across the country prompting Friday's Briefing. The identification of a case of the South African variant in the Brentwood area means that targeted testing has been deployed in the CM13 postcode area to control and suppress its spread. Postcode area CM0 on the Dengie is now an area being scrutinised as a possible location for a case of the Brazilian variant.

We must remember the time lag of around three weeks from initial infections to hospitalisations, and then sadly to patients going into Intensive Care and some deaths. We know some people we've been supporting are now in hospital and of a few recent deaths. Our sincere sympathy and condolences are with their families. It is good that new treatments have been found during the last year, improving recoveries.

The Roadmap predicts the cautious lifting of some other restrictions during March if Covid trends go downwards, no mutant strains increase risks and the roll out of vaccinations continues. Our ongoing 'good behaviour' throughout March is essential to stop to the very worrying apparent new upward trajectory.

On 4 May 2021 we reported that:

Since the last meeting of the Town Council, there have been two major developments in the fight against Covid 19 in South Woodham Ferrers. A new mass vaccination hub was opened in the old Practice building in Tyler's Ride and subsequently testing kits are being made available to residents from SWF's Library. The Health & Social Care Group (the Group) volunteers have continued to concentrate on the provision of services to the elderly and vulnerable affected by the coronavirus lockdown and the isolations. Since the start of the first lockdown on the 23rd March 2020 the group of volunteers, led by the Chair and organised by the Administrator, have delivered over 6550 tasks/activities. Recently the volunteers have been asked to help with the marshalling at the new hub and helped with the initial tests of all staff and pupils at William de Ferrers School. Deliveries have been made outside of the Town as far as to Danbury, Runwell and Latchingdon.

The Group who are liaising closely with Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (MECCG) and the voluntary services in Chelmsford has been fortunate to secure additional funding which allows the Administrator to give more hours. The Chair and all the volunteers are, of course, unpaid. The Group is now funded until September.

The reputation of the volunteers is such that they have been asked to lend their expertise to other areas of Covid related activity. Advice has been given on testing and the volunteers are standing by to help wherever needed.

Although concentration has been on directing the volunteers, the Group has been active in other ways. It is attending the Get Involved virtual meetings where patient participation and the new Primary Care Networks is an on-going debate.

There has been concern about the mental wellbeing of people during the lock downs. The volunteers have encountered a number of instances where there appears to be a need for help not satisfied by the formal systems.

The Group has been in constant touch with Irene Lewsey who is responsible for this work in Mid Essex and various support groups have been encouraged to take a coordinated approach. The Group has been requested to facilitate two virtual internships from the University of Warwick on the most complex rehabilitation services and patient & public participation. This work will be carried out in July.

Having seen first-hand the impact deaths during the pandemic, the Group has been collaborating in a project which will result in a series of videos to help the dying, and the bereaved and families and friends of those who have died in the pandemic. This involves co-ordination of the company producing the videos with the experts in the field and the presenter. Separate funding from an external source is being requested to cover this work.

28 April 2021

Key extracts from the Group's statement of 25 April 2021

KEEP PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION PLEASE! Roadmap Step 2 relaxations including Rule of 6/2 households outdoors in place! The Roadmap predicts the cautious lifting of further restrictions if Covid trends permit, no mutant strains increase risks and the roll out of vaccinations continues.

The Office of National Statistics published on 22 April the number of deaths due to Covid-19 between March 2020 & March 2021 (with new data for March). Very sadly this reported 1 more death from Covid of a resident in SWF registered in March after the 11 in January and 12 in February. We've been helping people in the surrounding areas and they have suffered too: West

Dengie had 0 deaths in March (6 in January, 5 in February); Danbury & Bicknacre had 3 deaths in March (11 in January, 7 in February); Rettendon & Runwell had 1 death in March (11 in January, 6 in February); our most sincere condolences go to all the bereaved families, friends and colleagues. We hope there will be very few more such deaths this summer.

Covid vaccinations continue in SWF. A magnificent 13,105 first dose and 1,157 second dose vaccinations have now been delivered at Crouch Vale Medical Centre to SWF and Dengie patients, health and social care workers. The latest information about GP vaccination supplies and clinics is at: <https://greenwoodsurgery.com/covid-vaccine/> . SWF is also privileged to have the mass vaccination hub at Tylers Ride, along with those at Runwell, Rayleigh, Chelmsford, at Broomfield, Basildon and Southend Hospitals, and elsewhere. The latest information about all mass vaccination centres and hospitals is at:

<https://eput.nhs.uk/news-events/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccine/> .

Some data about our activities in March 2021 which were needed elsewhere

SWFH&SCG delivered the following in March 2021:

- Tasks & activities to Support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people isolating and shielding and without local support networks 499 being say 90% deliveries of prescription medications and 10% welfare checks and necessary referrals, reports and administration.
- There were also 10 deliveries of food donations from CEV people to the SWF Foodbank hub
- There were also around 30 telephone and email inquiries about various health and welfare matters answered with signposting and onward referral
- In March 2021, SWFH&SCG:
 - Published 74 public health news items on its website
 - Sent weekly e-bulletins to nearly 300 subscribers including local opinion formers and decision makers
 - Website had 10,000 views and 22,500 visitors
 - Published 68 posts on our Facebook group, with a reach of 1500
 - Facebook group is followed by 507 people and had 449 likes
 - Published 62 Tweets on its own group which has 48 followers and had 3,546 Tweet Impressions
 - Most of our FaceBook items were also posted on the two main SWF Facebook Groups which have a total of over 33,000 members; our daily posting of SWF's Covid weekly data was particularly popular information.

Other things:

- Thanks to our excellent Administrator Emma Wardall, who left us at the end of April 2020, our new website, social media and communications capabilities had been fully developed and have been invaluable in enabling us to advise, inform and guide, utilising all the selected and edited information we gather from national, international, regional and local relevant sources; our website and social media have been fully used to keep everyone informed.
- We welcomed our new Administrator Nikki Boreham who has great enthusiasm for our Town and the work of our Group. She has been invaluable in all our communications and organisation during this particularly critical period.
- We are most grateful to Essex Community Foundation's Essex Coronavirus Response & Recovery Programme for a grant of £1800.00 to help fund our increased activity for six months in connection with COVID-19. We are also most grateful to Mister Gees Foundation for funding the development of our new website, social media and communications capabilities in 2019. Unbeknownst to us at the time this has been the foundation of our public health and welfare communications throughout the pandemic We are also extremely grateful to The Rotary Club of SWF and Chelmsford CVS for grants to help fund our work especially that which has

been related to Covid. We continue to be incredibly grateful for SWF Town Council's support and funding from its Small Grants scheme too.

- Funding is now in place to enable us to operate until October 2020 and steps are progressing to fund us through to the end of March 2022. We continue to maintain the small reserve of three months.
- Additionally, we have the grant of £5,000.00 from Essex Association of Local Councils under a fund provided by Essex County Council to finance the documentary video and accompanying resources about the impact of Covid on dying, death and bereavement.
- The Town Nurse project is suspended due to lockdowns etc but planning work for it continues so this can be re-started as soon as possible.
- Mid & South Essex Hospitals (Broomfield, Basildon and Southend) merged on 1 April 2020 and their transformation development has recently restarted.
- The consultations and process towards the amalgamation of the five Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) for Mid & South Essex continues within the constraints of COVID-19. In the meantime, they are an integral part of the Mid & South Essex Health & Care Partnership which was recently accorded the status of an Integrated Care System (ICS).
- Crouch Vale Medical Centre (CVMC) is working well within the COVID-19 situation and when possible we will return our attention to the debrief and aftermath of the move of all health services for the Town to CVMC.
- Thanks has been offered to Kingsway Practice for saving Brickfields Practice and the two will merge on 1 July 2021.
- Two other important issues on our horizon are:
 - the impact of the Chelmsford City Council Local Plan, with its overall proposal for 20,000+ new houses to be built during the life of the Plan and the 1200 of them in SWF, will have on Hospitals, Primary Care and Social Care; and
 - the possible development of Bradwell B nuclear power station.
- We have decided, like so many others, to hold a virtual AGM and Public Meeting as best COVID-19 allows and we can in July 2021 but are holding elections and dealing with a few minor constitutional issues to meet our developing activities.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing

Our local GP services are of huge significance but there are also very many other health and social care services much used and needed by SWF people. In no particular order in the last year this Group has engaged in and with:

- Chelmsford CVS (Council for Voluntary Service)
- Mid Essex CCG
- Mid & South Essex Hospitals NHS Trust and its allied hospitals at Broomfield, Basildon & Southend
- Mid & South Essex Sustainable Transformation Partnership, Health & Care Partnership, and Integrated Care System
- Essex Healthwatch
- Essex County Council Public Health
- Essex County Council Social Services
- Essex Cares
- Dying Matters in Essex

Group representatives have attended, engaged with, been involved with and/or contributed to:

- Reviews of local Acute Hospital Services
- The Essex Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- EPUT (Essex Partnership University Trust) about some of the mental health services it provides for all of Essex
- SWF pharmaceutical matters
- SWF dental matters
- SWF ophthalmology services including opticians
- East of England Ambulance which serves SWF
- MECCG's local community and primary health care strategy and that of NHS England
- Local NHS funding
- Carers' services including with Carers First and Action for Family Carers
- Chetwood Healthy Family Delivery Site, part of Chelmsford Central Family Hub
- Some Accessibility & Disabled People's services
- Bereavement and Death Matters
- SWF Foodbank
- SWF Chatty Bus
- Social Prescribing
- CQC (Care Quality Commission) re various health and social care regulatory issues and their voluntary & community involvement
- ARU (Anglia Ruskin University) and its Patient Partnership supporting training of medical students
- MECCG complaints delays
- UK, Eastern Region and Essex Acquired Brain Injury Fora.

In response to requests from the local media, ie newspapers, radio and regional tv stations, officers have made personal contributions to reports, discussions and items about various health & social care issues. We are extremely grateful to SW Focus who publish our informative articles.

By invitation, the Chair is also Chair of Trauma Voices, the Patient & Public engagement group for East of England Major Trauma Network. In that capacity he has, inter alia, promoted the provision of support for families and friends of major trauma patients; is promoting the review of, maintenance of, and increase in rehabilitation resources; is working with regional rehabilitation coordinators, rehabilitation service providers, social care providers, public health authorities, planning authorities, NHS & Department of Health and university researchers.

The Group's Chair represents SWF on the Livewell Chelmsford Group. Livewell Chelmsford has multi-agency and organisation membership and is linked to Mid Essex CCG, Essex Public Health and to the Essex Health & Wellbeing Board.

Its main roles are to:

- Be a decision-making body in respect of setting and delivering small projects including the funding of such,
- Be a locality group to inform the CCG and ECC of local health and wellbeing issues, and translate Mid-Essex and countywide initiatives into local action, and
- Be a forum for disseminating and discussing information relevant to partners.

As required and requested, the Group liaises with local health service providers, our MP and SWF's local authority Councillors about individual and generic issues of concern/interest to them.

The Group is working with one potential bidder in the procurement process for Essex County Council's Community Welfare Scheme which is due to come into operation in April 2022.

The Group is leading the production of a video documentary about the impact of Covid and its regulations on dying, death, and bereavement.

In conjunction with the University of Warwick TeamWorks internship scheme the Group is leading two one month research projects in June-July 2021. They are looking at:

- Patient & public engagement with the NHS and social care system; and,
- Rehabilitation resources and services at Level 1 & 2a for the most complex major trauma and other patients with neuro & muscular-skeletal injuries.

4. Our Organisation & Future Activities

At our 2019 AGM we put forward recommendations about changes to the way we should operate. They were prescient. Our new website, social media presence and capability to undertake virtual activities have enabled us to adapt to the COVID-19 circumstances and restrictions. This has also enabled us to move from holding physical meetings which has been so important during the pandemic. We will consider carefully how best to operate when we emerge from the pandemic.

We will continue, when allowed and able, to hold meetings when necessary, such as consultative ones and our AGMs. We will continue to deliver virtual interviews and presentations as COVID-19 pressures and regulations permit.

We believe that the Group is well served by our Administrator and our recruited band of volunteers without whom we would not have been able to operate to support those shielding and isolating but without local support networks.

We will adapt as best we can as COVID continues to have a great effect. We stand ready to continue to play our part and are well resourced and equipped to do so.

In the present circumstances it is difficult to plan and develop. We welcome comments and suggestions now and in the coming months about our activities as they are and as people would like them to be.

5. Officers & contact details

Chair: Peter Blackman

Task Force Chair: David Birch

Minutes Secretary: Jackie Birch

Administrator: Nikki Boreham

Contact details:

Email: swfhealthsocial@outlook.com

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/swfhealthsocial

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SWFhealthsocial>

6. Recommendations & Request

We commend the work of the Group and this Report to SWF Town Council (SWFTC) and the people of South Woodham Ferrers.

We request that SWFTC considers and accepts this Report. It will then be presented to our virtual AGM in July 2021 for adoption.

The Group has delivered value for money. The present and planned funding will enable the Group to continue to deliver an integrated approach to all levels and types of health and social care as they affect and apply to the patients and population of SWF through to the end of March 2022.

The Group requests continuation of SWFTC's support and in due course further funding towards its future administration. We will continue to consult and keep everyone advised of developments, progress and future arrangements.