
Heath and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

23 November 2022

Access to NHS Primary Care

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) identified scrutiny of access to NHS Primary Care as a priority, following scrutiny of the NHS post-Covid recovery plan in September 2021. At that time, HASC identified a number of concerns relating to Primary Care, including the ability to make GP appointments and to have in-person appointments. NHS Sussex has provided a report (at Appendix A), setting out details of the current position regarding access to Primary Care in West Sussex.

Focus for scrutiny

The focus for scrutiny is to seek assurance that the Committee's concerns regarding access to primary healthcare services are being addressed.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- 1) Measures taken to increase and optimise capacity since the Committee reviewed post-Covid recovery plans in September 2021.
- 2) Whether plans to optimise capacity in primary healthcare are deliverable.
- 3) How patient outcomes and expectations are being impacted by current challenges experienced by primary healthcare, and how these are being addressed.
- 4) Whether the challenges and risks facing primary healthcare have been appropriately taken into account as part of wider NHS winter planning.
- 5) To identify whether any further scrutiny of this matter could add value (and if so, when and what the focus for this should be).

The Chairman will summarise the debate, which will then be shared with NHS partners.

1. Background and context

- 1.1 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached report. There are no resource or risk implications directly affecting West Sussex County Council, as this is a report by the NHS, relating to NHS services.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Report on Access to NHS Primary Care

Background Papers: None