
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

6 March 2024

South East Coast Ambulance Service Update

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) provides the ambulance and NHS 111 service across the whole of Sussex, Surrey, Kent and North East Hampshire. It was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) twice in 2022, and both these inspections raised performance issues leading to a downgrading in some ratings. The inspection in August 2022 saw the Trust's overall rating move from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement'. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Trust's improvement journey in November 2022 and March 2023, when it agreed to review progress in a year's time. The report at Appendix A provides an update on the improvement journey for scrutiny by the Committee.

Focus for scrutiny

To assess whether services provided by SECAmb have improved in line with the requirements of the CQC inspections. Key lines of enquiry for the Committee to explore include:

- (1) Assurance that SECAmb has the capability and capacity to deliver the necessary improvements identified.
- (2) Whether operational performance targets are being met, including a reduction in response and handover times.
- (3) Whether patient outcomes have improved.
- (4) 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 output of the debate for consideration by the Committee, with conclusions to be shared with SECAmb.

Details

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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Annex

Annex A: South East Coast Ambulance Service Update Report

Background papers

None