
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

5 March 2025

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 March 2023 and March 2024, when it agreed to review progress in one year's time. The report at Appendix A provides an update on the improvement journey for scrutiny by the Committee, alongside information on current performance.

Focus for scrutiny

To scrutinise the SECAmb improvement journey and assess whether the services it provides have improved in line with the CQC inspection requirements.

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.

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 SECAmb relating to its services.

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Appendices

Appendix A: South East Coast Ambulance Service Update Report

Background papers

None