

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF HALSTEAD HOSPITAL LTD

Charity Number: 1121313

Meeting held at the United Reformed Church, Kings Road, Halstead

Tuesday 24th May 2022 @ 7.00pm

54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Present:

Members

Dr A J Symington (AS) (Chairman)
Mrs J A Pell (JP) (Vice Chairman)
Mr A R G Green (Treasurer)
Mrs E S Self (ES) (Secretary)

Mr G Courtauld (President)

Committee

Mrs J Anbouche
Mrs B K Couch (BC)
Mr L Crabb
Mrs S J Evans
Mrs R A Gage
Mr D Holmes

Committee

Mrs L M Jackson
Mrs J Lowrie
Mrs D Peglar
Mr W E G Pell
Mr R J Waters
Mrs J J Wright

In Attendance:

Mr Dan Doherty, Alliance Director, Mid Essex CCG
25 members of the public

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Action by:

The Chairman was pleased to see numerous members of the public and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Our Guest Speaker, Mr Dan Doherty, had advised of a further engagement and it was agreed to take this item earlier in the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr A H Frost, Ms C McSpadden (Practice Manager, Elizabeth Courtauld Partnership), and Mr D Hume (Halstead Town Councillor).

3. Guest Speaker Address - Mr Dan Doherty

Mr Doherty reported on his Physio career with the Mid Essex NHS, over the past 20 years covering areas of Chelmsford, Maldon and Halstead. His new role is an Alliance Director of the Mid & South Essex Integrated Care System.

Changes are happening across the NHS at the present time and, following the Governments Health & Social Care Act, the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) in Essex will be abolished from 1st July 2022. Halstead was previously under Mid Essex CCG and will now come under Mid and South Essex ICS.

Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals were within the Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust.

This integrated Health & Social Care system will encompass acute services, the Ambulance Trust, Mental Health, G P Services, with Community Services provided by Councils and the Voluntary Sector.

Action by:

Mr Doherty further advised of three reasons driving this NHS reform:

- to address the backlog in Social Care (exacerbated over the pandemic)
- the disparity of service between different Hospitals, e.g. Physio delivery for post-stroke patients. Therefore, to ensure care is consistent across all of Mid and South Essex
- the need for localism. The areas of Halstead/Coggeshall is different to that of Braintree/Chelmsford due to the demography and size of population.

The Alliance is designed to work more closely with partners, e.g. Community 360 in Braintree, with the local authority Braintree District Council (BDC). The aim is to keep people healthy and well, alongside other factors for quality, support, safety, education and employment.

The Alliance is also created to address bigger issues -

- hospital waiting times, including tests and appointments (i.e. hip surgery and MRI tests)
- backlog of diagnosis, e.g. cancers
- demand on Mental Health - children and adolescents
- health and well-being, e.g. with BDC to address childhood obesity, and get children more active. As long-term obesity may create Diabetes and Heart issues in later life.

During the pandemic, Mr Doherty reported, Critical Care provision was freed up to place people on ventilators. Brentwood was a Community Hospital for this purpose and has not gone back. Changes also occurred at Braintree, Maldon and Halstead Hospitals and the Integrated Care System (ICS) now has to evaluate and establish a long-term plan for healthcare provision. The wards at Braintree Community Hospital, that was Elderly Care & Rehab was configured to address (by use of its two theatres) the backlog of Orthopaedic Surgery (demand for hip and knee surgery). The provision of Doctors and Nurses, and an adequate supply of beds has to be addressed. Clinicians have proposed that through Health & Overview Scrutiny Committees across Essex, Southend and Thurrock authorities and by public consultation answers are found.

When the Consultation Document is launched Mr Doherty expressed his willingness to return to Halstead and discuss further. Halstead Hospital is a 'fine asset' to face the challenges ahead. It was noted that Outpatients and Diagnostics at the Hospital are run by Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust; with the Rehab Unit and Ward under Mid-Essex ICS. The Health Services provision is 'not as busy as it was previously' as distancing measures are still effective in Hospitals, e.g. a 24-bed ward now has 18 beds, and a 'sense of caution' in health service remain to protect the vulnerability of patients.

The Chairman thanked Mr Doherty for the 'clear picture' and hoped Halstead Hospital configured positively for the future.

Further questions were welcomed:

- the people of Halstead and area provided funds to the League of Friends (LoF's) to establish the Rehab Unit and Ward. Should we still feel obliged to supply items, e.g. T.V's beside beds for a Southend person? *Mr Doherty stated this 'a highly unlikely scenario' to crossover Mid-Essex Hospital sites.*

Action by:

- Public Consultation commences? *probably late Summer/Autumn. The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee will ensure individuals, staff, the public, organisations (LoF's) and G P Surgeries will be reached and process 'transparent'*
- the Community Healthcare Service Contract (value £5m) with Provide, any 'refund'? *'Virtual Wards' are continuing, that consists of Community Hospital staff and ex-staff. So, therefore (in theory) no refund.*
- the provision of six 'Respite Beds' at Halstead Hospital ? *This 'historical' arrangement supplied end-of-life/respice care, acting with local GP's, and money was given. The Chairman emphasised that the Rehab Unit/new Hospital was given to NHS Properties for the community, and time has changed this arrangement. The Vice Chairman further added that 'holiday beds' and the usage of beds had changed.*
- not enough Doctors/Nurses/Staff ? *Agency rates are high. The Chairman advised local people also keen to come back*
- how will the ICS (energy/effort/integration) work alongside Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust ? *Will be separate, as always a boundary somewhere, and they are not 'ignoring us'*
- format of consultation ? *The Public Consultation Institute is leading - has best standards, and information to read in all categories. BDC involved specifically, public also found through social media, and will ensure you are informed.*
- a local Earls Colne Councillor reported that she had already attended two presentations on the changes and congratulated Mr Doherty on the clear explanation. It accentuates how valuable Halstead Hospital is, with flexible visiting to allow relatives from away, and a 'wonderful asset' to the area. *Mr Doherty agreed that 'the work of the LoF's should not be under estimated compared to others' and the hospital is very significant.* The Vice Chairman reported that the local MP James Cleverley had also commended the quality of the Ward, and he is trying hard to get beds open again.

Mr Doherty stated the NHS is still in 'recovery mode' and action is needed to make sure 'powers that be' actually see the amazing facility of Halstead Hospital and 'tours' are suggested for Halstead, Maldon and Braintree Hospitals. **AS/JP/BC**

The Chairman thanked Mr Doherty for the presentation, and will stay in contact.

Mr Doherty provided his email address and would be happy to be contacted about concerns **ALL**
danieldoherty@nhs.net

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th September 2021

The minutes were moved by Mr W Pell, seconded by Mrs S Evans as a true and accurate record. Motion carried and minutes signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to the minutes, the report by Stephanie Dawe, Group Chief Nurse and Operating Officer (Provide), and the demise of the CCG's that are now nearing fruition.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report for year-end 31st December 2021. Specific reference was made to the success of the newly-established Facebook page of the LoF's and to Bridget Couch and Sarah Williamson on its implementation and management.

The future of the ward block continues to be a concern, and the LoF's hope to open the ward to the public to display its fantastic facilities.

It was noted that the defibrillator outside Saffron Building Society was used in an emergency, and is currently missing. Community Heartbeat are tracking its whereabouts.

The Vice Chairman, Mrs J Pell, thanked the Chairman for the report and his extreme hard work undertaken and problems addressed during the past year.

7. To adopt the Accounts for 2021 presented by the Treasurer and to receive the Auditors Report.

Mr Green presented the 16-page Report, provided an overview of the separate Limited company that rely on donations and legacies; the Accounts prepared for Companies House and audited by TC Audit Group and reviewed properly as 'true and fair'.

At year-end 31st December 2021 the Accounts reported assets of £2m (of which £1.4m is the Hospital). A further asset is £600,000 on deposit, so therefore the LoF's are in a very healthy position to use as and when.

Over the past 12 months £40,000 had been received through legacies, chiefly that of Mr Ralph Patmore of £36,000.

Expenditure had been limited, and mainly comprised of a £10,000 donation to the Halstead Day Centre to assist the local community.

A query was raised with regard to funding six Cardiac Monitors, and it was realised this relates to the 2022 Financial Year. There were no further questions.

The Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mrs B Couch, seconded by Mrs S Evans and motion carried.

8. Election of Auditor for 2022

The Auditor to the LoF's for financial year ending 31st December 2022 was considered, and TC Audit Limited was proposed by Mrs S Evans, seconded by Mrs J Wright, and motion carried.

9. To elect the following Executive Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the appointment of Directors/Trustees

The Chairman introduced this item and expressed Thank You's to the President, Mr G Courtauld and Vice President, Mr A H Frost who have recently completed the first year of their current three-year Term of Office.

Mrs J Anbouche made reference to previous AGM's and the LoF's 'Rule Book' for Chairman and Vice Chairman to relinquish their position after a three-year term (rule suspended during the pandemic).

Mrs S Evans considered this an occurrence 'happy to ignore' whilst the future of the Hospital is uncertain, and to maintain suitable people in chief officer roles.

Chairman: Dr A Symington was nominated by Mrs S Evans, seconded by Mrs J Wright and motion carried.

Vice Chairman: Mrs J Pell was nominated by Mrs S Evans, seconded by Mrs R Gage and motion carried.

Secretary: Mrs E Self was nominated by Mrs B Couch, seconded by Mrs J Wright and motion carried.

Treasurer: Mr A Green was nominated by Mrs S Evans, seconded by Mrs J Wright and motion carried.

The three-year term of three Trustees was complete, and following their agreement to re-stand

Mrs S Evans, Mr D Holmes and Mrs J Wright were nominated by Mr W Pell, seconded by Mr A Green. All in favour.

Appointment of Director/Trustee - Mrs J Pell proposed that Mr Lee Crabb becomes a Director/Trustee of the LoF's.

Following Mr Crabb's agreement it was moved by Mrs R Gage, seconded by Mrs S Evans and motion carried.

The remaining Trustees, following their agreement to remain, were nominated en-bloc by Mr W Pell, seconded by Mrs J Wright to be re-elected:-

Mrs J Anbouche, Mrs B K Couch, Mr A H Frost, Mrs R A Gage, Mr A R G Green, Mrs L M Jackson, Mrs D Pegler, Mrs J A Pell, Mr W E G Pell and Dr A Symington.

Mrs J Lowrie and Mr R J Waters remain as Committee Members only.

Action by:

Dr D Kreis and Ms C McSpadden (Practice Manager at Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery) remain as ex-officio links with the surgery.

10. Date of Next Standard Meeting

As meetings may now be held bi-monthly the next meeting of the LoF's will be held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at 7.00pm. *Venue to be advised.*

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming, and advised once consultation is underway on the new proposals for Healthcare Provision an Extraordinary Meeting may be called late Summer/early Autumn, and Dan Doherty requested to attend.

For information - Dan Doherty email address danieldohererty@nhs.net

A letter of thanks and a donation to be sent for use of main hall and coffee area at the United Reformed Church.

ES

The meeting closed at 8.35pm