

# Public Document Pack

Democratic Services



## HEALTH LIAISON PANEL

Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Health Liaison Panel meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Christine Cleveland (Chair)	Councillor Bernice Froud
Councillor Chris Ames	Councillor Bernie Muir
Councillor Liz Frost	Councillor Kim Spickett

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sing'.

Chief Executive

For further information, please contact [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) or tel: 01372 732000

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

## **Public information**

This meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom. A limited number of seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis in the public gallery at the Town Hall. If you wish to observe the meeting from the public gallery, please arrive at the Town Hall reception before the start of the meeting. A member of staff will show you to the seating area. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk), telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

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## **Exclusion of the Press and the Public**

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chair agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee may wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

## **Questions and statements from the Public**

Questions and statements from the public are not permitted at meetings of this Committee. [Annex 4.2](#) of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Operating Framework sets out which Committees are able to receive public questions and statements, and the procedure for doing so.

## **Filming and recording of meetings**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any item of business to be considered at the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 8)**

The Panel is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on 23 November 2023 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

### **3. EPSOM AND ST HELIER UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST**

Speakers: James Blythe, Managing Director of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and Tim Wilkins, Programme Director for Building your Future Hospitals.

Presentation topics:

- Update on the planned works at the Epsom site; including updates on the plans for parking.
- Update on the new hospital site in Sutton
- Winter pressures and the impact this has had and the any impact of the rise in measles to be added to the presentation.
- Impact of the ongoing industrial action
- Update on the plans to move Childrens Cancer Treatment from St Georges to Evelina.

### **4. DISCUSSION ON THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Chair shall invite the Panel to discuss which areas relating to health and wellbeing it would like to see added to the forward plan for consideration at its future meetings.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the HEALTH LIAISON PANEL held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 23 November 2023**

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**PRESENT -**

Councillor Christine Cleveland (Chair); Councillor Kate Chinn (as nominated substitute for Councillor Councillor Chris Ames), Councillor Liz Frost, Councillor Bernice Froud and Councillor Bernie Muir.

In Attendance: Councillor Rod Ashford (Reigate and Banstead Borough Council)

Absent: Councillor Chris Ames and Councillor Kim Spickett

Officers present: Rachel Kundasamy (Community Development Manager), Serena Powis (Community Development Officer) and Victoria Sandri-Healy (Community Development Officer)

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**6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made by Members in respect of any items of business discussed at the meeting.

**7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Health Liaison Panel held on 11 July 2023, were reviewed by the Panel. The Panel agreed that they were a true record and authorised the Chair to sign them.

**8 SUICIDE PREVENTION: A LOCAL PICTURE OF EPSOM AND EWELL**

The Panel received a presentation (published as a supplement to the agenda) from Nanu Chamber-Stanley (Public Health Lead – Suicide Prevention & Public Mental Health Training – Surrey County Council).

The following matters were considered by the Panel:

- a) It was identified that partnership working is fundamental to the continuation of this work, thus it was queried whether all partners involved are up to speed with regards to funding, resourcing, and commitment. It was noted that whilst the Alison Todd protocol is new, work is being done to get organisations on board. A ‘task and finish’ group will be starting and Councillors are welcome to take part where possible. It was also stated

that due to the vast number of different GP practices, it would not be possible for each one to sign up to the Alison Todd protocol. However, it will be possible to use a Primary Care Network approach to get the practices on board with the protocol.

- b) It was acknowledged that whilst different partners have been collecting data, they haven't been using the same parameters. A question was posed around how this can be rectified. It was stated that Suicide Prevention has a national mandate for the real time database which all partners must use. There is a new database known as 'QES' which will further enable partners to use the same parameters when collecting data. Currently, QES is only available to Surrey Police, but there are plans to involve the Surrey and Borders Partnership as well as other agencies, once the data sharing process is complete.
- c) From considerations on the statistics shared, it was noted that the rate of suicide increased during the Cost-of-Living Crisis and when the method of reporting changed. However, suicide rates did not increase during the pandemic, despite loneliness being identified as a trigger. It was suggested that this could have been because more people were volunteering as they were not able to work. An idea was posed as to whether volunteering could be used in suicide prevention. Reasons for the national drop in suicides during the pandemic were explored and noted as follows: social capita during this time was very high – people were working together and checking in on each other more frequently. It was also stated that although the data collected during the pandemic depicts a decrease in suicide, it was still a very challenging time for many. Social isolation and loneliness are still very much prevalent today and an upcoming Joint Strategic Needs Assessment should depict this to further inform the work being done around suicide prevention.
- d) A query was made into suicide risk where there is risk of coercive control and domestic abuse. It was noted that suicide awareness training as well as domestic abuse training is available to all. The speaker commissions men's mental health programmes for Surrey which revealed that 1/3 of all men have experienced domestic abuse. Further work is being done to understand men's mental health and implement support as it has been on the agenda for a long time. Lived experience was noted to be a catalyst in the development of men's mental health support.
- e) It was stated that parents need to know and be aware of what their children are accessing online. A question was asked on whether there is any plan to include parents when training suicide prevention or a plan to educate parents to monitor online harms. It was mentioned that on the new Suicide Prevention Strategy, there is a large section which features an online harms strategy and that the Lucy Rayner Foundation based in Banstead run awareness sessions for families, as well as drop-in sessions for concerned parents. It was also noted that when there is a risk or concern identified around social media, the Samaritan's press team can have it removed.

**9 DRAFT SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN**

The Panel received a presentation (published as a supplement to the agenda) from Rachel Kundasamy (Community Development Manager – Epsom & Ewell Borough Council).

The following matters were considered by the Panel:

- a) It was queried whether there are plans to move towards a more nationwide strategy when considering suicide prevention training. While it was recognised that the aspiration is to continue to roll out Public Health training and make it more collaborative, our internal training was set up due to a spike in distress calls being made to the council. It was stated that despite this, there is a national standard of training we are expected to follow. It was also identified that it can be challenging to enrol enough people on trainings such as Suicide First Aid and Mental Health First Aid due to the length of the training and it taking time away from the work week.
- b) The resourcing for such training was queried, and whether there is space and time to deliver the training within the council. It was acknowledged that the Community Development Manager and the Community Safety and Enforcement Officer deliver the training based on their background and experience, so there are no resourcing concerns. The first cohort of training was reported to have gone well, with lots of open dialogue and discussion.
- c) A Panel member highlighted a typing error within one of the presentation slides. The document was amended accordingly and republished subsequent to the meeting.
- d) The Chair acknowledged that this is very clearly a draft and encouraged the Panel to submit any further comments or questions to the Community Development Manager by 27 November.

**10 EPSOM AND ST HELIER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NHS TRUST: BRIEFING PAPER**

The Panel received a paper (published as a supplement to the agenda) from Epsom and St Helier University Hospital – NHS Trust.

The following matters were considered by the Panel:

- a) The Chair and the Panel collectively agreed that there is growing alarm at the hospital's lack of response and presence at the Health Liaison Panels. It was noted that there is still no date for the proposed car park, and it would have been beneficial to hear more about this. The Chair has contacted the hospital requesting updates on several occasions, but they have not provided enough information at this time.

- b) It was considered that hospitals are under huge pressures and more information on how this is being managed during the colder months would have been useful. Alongside this, it was noted that due to an industrial dispute, there may be further strikes. The impact strikes have already had on our residents was listed as over 750 appointments and 36 planned procedures having to be rescheduled. It was challenged that the paper does not reflect the full journey of said patients through the hospital system as they may have been deferred once, twice, or more prior to this.
- c) A discussion was had surrounding the movement of children's cancer treatment from St. George's Hospital in Tooting, to the Evelina hospital in Westminster. There was no mention of facilitating the travel from Surrey into London where ULEZ and congestion charges apply, and there was lack of information on support for lower income families. It was noted that St George's hospital offer dedicated parking for cars with immunocompromised children so that no public transport is required and that if specialist treatment is needed, travelling out of area is plausible – however regular treatment should be closer to the home of the child.
- d) It was agreed that a letter from the Chair will be written to the hospital to request their attendance to future committee meetings and Panels.

*The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.15 pm*

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE CLEVELAND (CHAIR)