

West Essex Primary Care Trust

Question	Response
Regarding the proposed change from West Essex PCT to NHS West Essex, why change what works? Under which directive is this change to be made?	We are not actually changing the service, just splitting the roles of commissioning and providing. We will still manage community services, but will do so at arm's length. We are consulting staff on this national directive. The directive comes from the Ministry of Health, and is imposed on all PCTs.
Cllr S Barker: I am involved in a review of renal dialysis for Essex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. What are your plans for introducing a regional renal dialysis framework, providing 10 – 15% of patients with access to home dialysis?	I will seek information on this subject and revert with a response.
Cllr S Barker: what are your plans for provision of chlamydia testing, including self-test kits? What is the uptake level on screening?	We have had very wide-ranging publicity programme, including a successful poster design competition using logos designed by young people. We display posters in nightclubs on toilet doors. Regarding uptake on screening, a response will be made once further information has been obtained.
Cllr D Morson: regarding pharmacy facilities in Elsenham – given the success of the longstanding pharmacy at the GP surgery, what is the rationale of establishing another pharmacy?	I am not aware of any further application for a pharmacy. I will make enquiries and provide a further response to this question. If an application is made, the PCT forms part of the decision making body, but this would not be our decision. We have to follow criteria, and there is usually a radius rule. I will revert to you.
Will the re-organisation of WEPCT have an impact on setting up a new health centre in Stansted?	No, not at all. This re-organisation relates to a name change. There will be no effect on strategy, and we are fully committed to the provision of this facility.
What car parking provision will there be for the proposed health centre at Silver Street?	Car parking has been a significant part of negotiations and planning.
Cllr E Godwin: during the Christmas period, an incident was reported to me where someone needed emergency dental treatment for an abscess. His dental surgery was shut, so following instructions in a recorded message, he tried NHS Direct, and then a succession of hospitals, none of which would treat him. In the end he was seen by a dentist in Hertfordshire. This type of incident surely should never happen.	We do have an emergency dental service. I apologise that the call was not directed appropriately. Sometimes patients do have to travel some way for emergency dental treatment. NHS Direct should direct calls to the local service. I will make further enquiries and come back to you on this matter.

West Essex Primary Care Trust continued...

Question	Response
Regarding provision of health care services for Takeley – in November Takeley Parish Council received a survey on GP practices, in which the conclusion seemed to have been reached that Takeley was ‘largely rural’. Takeley Parish Council had not heard anything further for three months. Could an update be provided? Was the pharmacy application anything to do with this review? What is the significance of the definition, quoted in the survey, of Takeley being ‘mainly rural in character’?	<p>We are still reviewing capacity across the area, and lists are still open for people to register with a GP. This is part of our ongoing review. However, I will ask Aidan Thomas to contact you to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>I can look at the detail of the letter the Parish Council received in the question and answer session.</p>
Cllr A Dean: may we have an assurance that the health centre in St John’s Road, Stansted will continue for the time being? We were advised in the summer that a decision had to be made on the health centre by December due to the insecurity of the arrangements at St John’s Road.	During negotiations, the service will continue as normal at St John’s Road as the lease will continue on goodwill, but we still need to move as quickly as possible. We hope to be able to be clearer at the end of January.

Essex County Council

Question	Response
Cllr S Barker: what effect will the ECC review of speed management and policy have on speeding in villages?	There has always been a speed strategy, but we are now asking for feedback. We have pledged to deliver a 20 mph limit in certain areas. The policy includes certain aims we will try to deliver. It should be noted that there is an element of lobbying by some motoring groups for speed limits to go up as well as down.
Does ECC have a policy on traffic calming measures? Over the border of the County there is a variety of measures, and there appear to be conflicting reports as to what works.	The present strategy states the criteria for use of a range of measures. There can be a negative impact on the quality of life of those living nearby, such as noise; on ambulance teams if there are road bumps, on disabled people who have to negotiate them. The new strategy suggests that physical, engineering measures be used only as a last resort after other methods have been considered. Drivers should recognise that they are driving through someone’s environment.
Cllr A Dean: do you liaise with your Highways department regarding potholes? Near the Old Bell in Stansted there are defects which are a potential cause of accidents.	Yes, I constantly talk to them, and will be happy to take details back to the team.
Cllr A Dean: a question was raised at the last Panel regarding disability access to Stansted Post Office. The response received is very unsatisfactory. The delivery vehicles only occasionally park outside the place where the dropped kerb would be sited. The Post Officer manager has been told by his disability discrimination advisor that the present access is	This point will be taken back to Highways.

inadequate. I would like this matter to be considered further.

Essex Police

Cllr C Dean: what are the sanctions available for those 600+ caught speeding during Elsenham's Speedwatch campaign?

Community Speedwatch has an excellent effect. Once someone has been identified as speeding, they are sent a letter. Repeat offenders are logged and will be contacted. Varying times and locations of Speedwatch naturally has a slowing down effect on people in the area.

Cllr G Sell: what has been the effect, if any, of the closure of Newport Police Station on traffic enforcement?

Traffic enforcement at Newport is now being serviced from Great Dunmow, which is providing an increased resource for the whole district. There is good coverage of the road policing unit, and the area gets more mobile support than before.

Cllr G Sell: can you provide an update on enforcement of road safety measures at Patmore End junction?

This will be followed up.

Uttlesford District Council

Question

Response

Would you consider changing the pension scheme for your employees from final salary to a form of contributions, as a saving?

We operate the pension scheme run by Essex County Council, which is the national Local Government Pension Scheme and not open to a local change of this kind.

The recycling of materials is now becoming a global problem – what consideration are you giving this matter?

We should look wider than our own district as this is about the planet's reserves. Unlike some authorities, we are not storing recyclable material, but are continuing to recycle it, and in this country rather than exporting it. We should recycle as a matter of principle, and we are among the best in the country.

Given the recent changes in the housing ministry, will you clarify some of the issues regarding the proposed eco town and Local Development Framework (LDF)?

The Government was engaged in consultation on planning policy and eco towns. This process has been extended to March because of a judicial review by residents elsewhere in the country. The economic situation is different to when this proposal was first mooted. The principle of an eco town relies on the value released from the land being sufficient to enable the provision of the social, amenity and physical infrastructure that would support a vibrant community. There are now instances being reported, for example, where land is worth less with planning permission than without it. There are therefore uncertainties about the eco town and we await the Governments conclusions.

Regarding the LDF, this has now been set back, as we are awaiting the outcome of consultation on the government's planning policy. We cannot proceed until we know the government's intentions, or indeed the developer's intentions.

We will present the new timetable for the LDF to the next Environment Committee. It is likely there will be further consultation in September/October.

Regarding Stansted Airport, the G2 inquiry starts in April. A pre-planning inquiry is scheduled for 19 January, which is an open meeting. On 11 February there will be a special meeting of the Development Control Committee to discuss our statement of place.

Uttlesford District Council

continued. . .	
Question	Response
The population is continuing to rise, and there will be continued pressure to build new housing. Will the government put pressure on Uttlesford to increase housing?	There is no extra pressure on this council. The development industry is stalling across the country. The government is looking to the Homes and Communities Agency and Rural Communities Commission to promote development.
Cllr G Sell: for those living in wards in the south of Uttlesford, the nearest Citizen's Advice Bureau is in Bishop's Stortford. Uttlesford has a representative on the board and partly funds this CAB. Cutting its funding is therefore of concern to Uttlesford, and we should make representations to East Herts.	This point is noted and will be passed to Community and Housing Committee. Uttlesford contributes to the Bishops Stortford CAB and Officers will not be proposing any cuts to this or the Uttlesford CAB when the budget is due to be agreed by the Council.
Regarding enforcement of off airport parking in Great Hallingbury, please could the alleged breaches be inspected further, as it seems incredible to conclude there are no breaches.	This point will be taken back to Uttlesford's enforcement officers.
Council for Voluntary Service	
Cllr A Dean: I have seen reports that East Herts has cut £50K from the CVS budget – is CVS funding being cut in Uttlesford?	The CVS draws its funding from a number of sources but no cuts are proposed by UDC officers when the budget is due to be agreed by the Council. Funding is of great concern at a time of economic hardship. Voluntary services are under pressure from grants not increasing.

