

Dear stakeholder,

It's been another week where a significant milestone has been reached. On Tuesday, our governing body members of Ipswich and East Suffolk and North East Essex clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) approved the proposal to build a new Elective Care Centre in Colchester, during an extraordinary meeting held virtually in public. The decision means the £44m centre will be built on the Colchester Hospital site in Turner Road and open by 2024/25. Its benefit will include:

- fewer cancelled operations, as beds will be protected for planned orthopaedic surgery;
- shorter waiting times for surgery;
- new ways of working, helping to retain existing staff and attract new talent to ESNEFT;
- increased capacity to treat all local people into the future;
- a better experience for patients and carers.

A fantastic proposal which I strongly believe will benefit our communities.

I can also report that building work has been taking place on an existing NHS site in Clacton that will eventually accommodate two local GP practices. Under the plans, Epping Close Surgery and Frinton Road Medical Centre will move into Kennedy House, leaving their existing cramped, dated accommodation. Currently the surgeries have a total of around 9,000 patients – but when fully operational the new centre will support almost 12,000 patients. It now means work can start on the inside of the ground floor of Kennedy House which will see the creation of eight consulting rooms, seven treatment rooms, a phlebotomy room and a digital facility.

I was very sad to learn yesterday that one of our valued partners - Age UK Suffolk - is to cease operations from the end of next week. It is after the charity was hit by 'significant' financial losses as a result of coronavirus. Age UK Suffolk has done so much good work over the years. Since the pandemic started in March, staff and volunteers launched their Good Day Calls campaign. During this time, they made 7,597 welfare calls to older people across the county. A big loss to the county.

I wanted to highlight the amazing work of the Green Light Trust, based in Lawshall near Bury St Edmunds. Since it was formed 1989, the trust has helped thousands of people challenged with mental health issues. They've taught skills and self-esteem to children and adults who were disadvantaged or disconnected. The trust has now launched a campaign in conjunction with the East of England Co-op to appeal for unneeded, working smartphones to help users of their service access online courses. When lockdown began, Green Light Trust created their online wellbeing courses, also known as the AIR programme. The donated smartphones, which will be collected at 122 East of England Co-op stores across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, will give some of their users smartphone access for the first time, allowing them to access the AIR programme with ease.

I was delighted to receive the Eastern Academic Health Science Network's new [impact review](#), which highlights its work in partnership with its community in the East of England between April 2019 to March 2020. Whilst this report provides an

overview of the collective achievements across the whole region, a separate document has been produced which includes examples of its work to support patients and the health and care system specifically within Suffolk and North East Essex's ICS boundary. Please see attached report – they really are amazing achievements by everyone and I remain grateful to the Eastern Academic Health Science Network for its continued support.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the Suffolk and North East Essex ICS's Director of Finance group who have been shortlisted for two prestigious national awards:

- Public Finance Awards – Health Finance Team of the Year (to be announced in October);
- HSJ Value Awards – Finance Team of the Year (to be announced at a virtual event on 4<sup>th</sup> September).

A fantastic achievement to get this far.

Finally, I also wanted to share with you our ICS stakeholder diary which features previous stakeholder briefings over the past three months since lockdown began. Please click [HERE](#) which I hope you find it of interest.

Stay safe

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