

## **Sexual Health Services Task Group**

### **What was the issue/topic?**

Since April 2017, Sexual Health and HIV Services in Surrey have been delivered under a single, integrated model of care. The implementation of this new model resulted in significant changes to the way in which these services are delivered which involved the closure of three Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) Clinics in the County. Sexual Health and HIV Services were considered by the Adults and Health Select Committee at its meeting on 4 September 2017 during which Members heard concerns from patients and partners that Surrey County Council (SCC) and NHS England (NHSE) who were responsible for commissioning the Service had not undertaken appropriate engagement regarding the development and introduction of the new integrated contract. The closure of three GUM Clinics was highly contentious and there was significant pressure on the Select Committee to ensure that it conducted robust scrutiny of engagement undertaken by SCC and NHSE both before and after the decision was taken to close these Clinics.

### **What did the Committee do?**

In response to these concerns, a Task Group comprising three Members was formally established by the Select Committee with the express role of reviewing communication and engagement conducted by SCC and NHSE around the introduction of the integrated Service with a view to making recommendations on how to engage effectively with patients, residents and stakeholders. As well as being contentious, the development and implementation of the new Sexual Health and HIV Service was extremely complex affecting different groups and individuals in a variety of ways which made it incumbent for the Task Group to seek a diverse range of perspectives on which to base its findings. Over the course of several weeks Members of the Task Group met with 25 people either in person or over the phone. This included patients directly impacted by the closure of the GUM Clinics, clinical and non-clinical staff working in the Service, representatives from the voluntary sector, local GPs as well as officers who commissioned the integrated service. It was important to seek the views of all Surrey residents to inform the outcomes of the final report. This was conducted through an online survey which asked residents to comment on how SCC and NHSE engaged with them around the introduction of the integrated Service. The survey was actively promoted by SCC and its partners to ensure it reached as many people as possible which ensured that it attracted a large number of responses.

### **What was the result outcome?**

The Task Group's finding will be published ahead of the Adults and Health Select Committee meeting which is taking place on 4 July 2018 and, if appropriate, will make recommendations to SCC and NHSE with a view to improving how they engage with patients, residents and partners on service changes.