

Item 7: Audiology.

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 January 2013

Subject: Audiology.

1. Background

- (a) Audiology has been a subject which the Committee has considered periodically over the years. The last general updates were received on two occasions in 2009 – 6 February and 27 July. At the request of a Member of the Committee, these papers are included in the present Agenda for comparative purposes. The Committee also received written information specifically about paediatric audiology in West Kent at its 11 June 2010 meeting.
- (b) The following specific questions were submitted to NHS Kent and Medway in advance of the present meeting:
1. Can you provide an overview of the way audiology services have been developed since 2009, the last time the Committee considered audiology services?
 2. How much has been spent of audiology services in the last four years?
 3. How do audiology services feature in QIPP plans?
 4. What are the main referral routes to audiology services and how long are the waiting times? Do the waiting times vary across Kent?
 5. How many people in Kent access audiology services and what proportion access them outside Kent and Medway?
 6. The Committee received specific information about changes to paediatric audiology service in West Kent in 2010 due to facilities at Preston Hall not being considered fit for purpose. Have the changes proposed at the time to paediatric audiology in West Kent been fully implemented and is the service now considered sustainable?
 7. How are paediatric audiology services delivered in East Kent?
 8. What future services developments to audiology services (adult and paediatric) are underway or in preparation?

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2. Recommendation

That the Committee consider and note the report.