

Item 9: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 5 March 2020

Subject: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT).

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) Following a coroner's inquest in January 2020, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) carried out a two-week investigation into maternity services at East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust, with a report presented to Nadine Dorries MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health & Social Care) on 10 February. This was discussed at the House of Commons on 13 February, where Ms Dorries confirmed she had requested HSIB consider a deep dive investigation into historical and existing cases of maternal death at the Trust.
- b) NHS England and Improvement have also announced an independent review into East Kent's maternity services.

2) The role of HOSC

- a) EKHUFT have been requested to attend today's HOSC meeting in order to update the Committee on their action plan for improving maternity services in East Kent.
- b) As per KCC's Constitution (17.138), HOSC cannot consider individual complaints relating to health services. It also cannot consider information where a living individual would be identifiable.
- c) HOSC Members can review the Trust's action plan in relation to the operation of maternity services in East Kent and make reports and recommendations as it sees fit.

3. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report, and that the Trust be requested to provide an update at the appropriate time.

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Background Documents

Care Quality Commission, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Overview and CQC inspection ratings, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RVV>

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