

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Dermatology update – 25th January 2019

Background

Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) served notice on their Dermatology service, serving patients across Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley, Swale and Medway, with the intention of ceasing service provision as of 31st March 2019. Medway CCG is leading the procurement for a new service to commence 1st April 2019.

Current Situation

Outsourcing and Cancer Waiting Times

MFT continue to outsource first outpatients and minor operations to DMC; to December 18 a total of 453 new outpatient and 224 minor operations have been transferred. The outsourcing arrangement has enabled MFT to utilise the capacity to focus and improve the management of cancer referrals; and although the trust continue to fail against the national 2 week wait target their position has improved over the last few months from 18% of patients being seen within 14 days in September 18 to 38% compliance in November 18.

Waiting List

The waiting list position has improved and is lower by approximately 750 than the previous year.

MFT is reporting the following 52 week breaches for October, November and December:

(MFT – Kent and Medway CCGs)

October - 9 breaches

November – 8 breaches

December – 10 breaches

MFT (NHS Medway CCG only)

October – 6 breaches

November – 7 breaches

December – 5 breaches

Progress to date

1. Procurement

Following notification of MFTs intention to cease delivery of Dermatology services Medway CCG, in collaboration with Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley (DGS) and Swale CCGs commenced procurement to identify a lead provider to deliver a consultant led Dermatology service for the 3 CCGs as of 1st April 2019.

The procurement is progressing to plan. The outcome of the procurement is due to be presented to the CCG committees at the end of January and if approval to award the contract is obtained and there are no challenges received the expectation is that mobilisation will commence in mid-February.

Prior to entering procurement a Market Engagement event was held where potential providers were advised of the requirement of the successful provider to mobilise in a short timeframe (by 1st April 2019) to ensure this risk was mitigated prior to the procurement process commencing.

2. Interim service (Medway CCG)

To alleviate some of the pressures on the MFT service and to provide patients with timelier access to treatment whilst the procurement process is ongoing and the new provider is mobilising their service Medway CCG has commissioned a short term (5 month) consultant led community Dermatology service. This service will deliver Dermatology services for all Medway patients until 31st March 2019 and is in addition to Dermatology services already in place locally.

GPs continue to utilise alternative providers across the South East to offer patients access to timely treatment; this has supported MFT to achieve against the national 2ww target.

3. MFT Outsourcing

MFT continues to outsource minor operations and first outpatient appointments to reduce their waiting list.

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