

Item 6: Urgent Care Review Programme – Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 16 December 2019

Subject: North Kent CCGs: Urgent Care Review Programme – Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG

Summary: **This has been deemed a substantial variation of service by both Kent HOSC and Bexley Council's COSC.**

This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and Swale CCGs.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (DGS CCG) made the Kent HOSC aware of their Urgent Care Review programme in 2014. In line with NHS England requirements, the CCG proposes to bring urgent care services, currently located across a number of centres, together under one Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC).
- b) A public consultation ran from 12 August to 4 November 2019. The proposal is to create a new UTC at either Gravesham Community Hospital or Darent Valley Hospital by autumn 2020.

2) Previous monitoring by HOSC

- a) The Kent HOSC has received regular updates from DGS CCG on its Urgent Care Review programme since 2014.
- b) In January 2019, Kent HOSC determined that the proposed changes amounted to a **substantial variation** to the local health service.
- c) Since its last update, Bexley Council's Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) has also deemed the proposed changes to be a substantial variation to health services for residents of Bexley.
- d) In light of the above, there is now a duty on the two local authorities to form a joint health overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) for the purpose of the consultation with DGS CCG. Once established, only the joint overview and scrutiny committee may make comments, require the provision of information and the attendance at meetings by DGS CCG.

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- e) The Bexley COSC agreed the formation of a JHOSC on 16 October 2019. At Kent County Council, only the full Council can approve the establishment of a Joint Committee involving more than one local authority. A paper will be taken to County Council on 17 December about this, along with proposed Terms of Reference.
- f) As Kent County Council has not formally agreed the establishment of a JHOSC, Councillors from Bexley Council have been invited to attend this meeting of Kent's HOSC in order to receive the update from DGS CCG.
- g) The CCG will be updating members on the outcome of the public consultation.

3) Next Steps

- a) This meeting will be the final opportunity for Kent and Bexley Councillors to have *their* views fed into the CCG's Decision-Making Business Case prior to the NHS making a decision. The NHS decision will be reported to the JHOSC in January. The JHOSC will then determine what recommendation(s) to make to the home authorities.

4. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted and asks that the NHS take the HOSC's views into account in the CCG's Decision-Making Business Case.

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Background Documents

Kent County Council (2014) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/10/2014)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5400&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26/01/2016)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=6256&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2017) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (27/01/2017)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7507&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2017) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14/07/2017)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7530&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2018) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23/11/2018)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7923&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (25/01/2019)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7924&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23/07/2019)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8282&Ver=4>

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