

Item 6: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 March 2021

Subject: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

Summary: This report provides the background to the agenda item.

The Committee has yet to determine if the proposals constitute a substantial variation of service.

There will be a verbal update from the Kent and Medway CCG at the meeting.

1) Introduction

- a) The Local Urgent Care Programme review was first presented to HOSC in 2014. It was in response to an NHS England requirement for all areas to have an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) to try and reduce the pressure on A&E departments.
- b) The review refers to face-to-face urgent care services, as opposed to telephony services which have been procured separately. Urgent care relates to injuries or illnesses that are not life-threatening but that require urgent clinical assessment or treatment on the same day.¹
- c) In September 2019, provision for urgent care to Swale residents included:²
 - i) A GP out of hours service with bases at Sheppey Community Hospital and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital as well as a home-visiting service.
 - ii) A nurse-led minor injuries unit at Sheppey Community Hospital and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital.
 - iii) A GP operated walk-in-centre from Sheppey Community Hospital, Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital and a mobile unit.
 - iv) A 24/7 GP led urgent treatment centre at Medway Maritime Hospital.

2) Previous visits to HOSC

- a) HOSC has received updates about the urgent care review programme since 2014.
- b) Swale CCG had initially considered a “minimal change” clinical model, but this was discontinued in November 2018 after it was deemed unaffordable. It was decided a full-service specification/ clinical model review was necessary, which would involve working alongside Medway CCG whose facilities were used by Swale residents.

¹ Kent County Council (2019) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Swale CCG Urgent Care update (19/09/19)

² ibid

Item 6: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

- c) At its 19 September 2019 meeting, HOSC received an update from Swale CCG and was notified the clinical model options had not yet been identified. The CCG was undertaking a detailed clinical review of data from their urgent and emergency care services and findings were expected in September/October 2019. Quantitative and qualitative data analysis that had been carried out to date was presented to the Committee.
- d) Swale CCG informed the Committee that the NHS Long Term Plan required that their urgent care proposals be in place by autumn 2020.
- e) Following the above discussion, the Committee agreed:

RESOLVED that the Committee note the report and that the NHS be invited to attend a future meeting when there was more information available on the new model of care being developed, at which time the Committee would be able to determine whether it would be deemed a substantial variation of service.
- f) The CCG has been requested to provide a verbal update at this HOSC meeting.

3) Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the update be noted and the Kent and Medway CCG return to update the Committee at an appropriate time.

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>

Item 6: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

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>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (19/09/2019)
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8283&Ver=4>

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