

Item 5: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17
March 2021

Subject: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital

Summary: This report invites the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by the Kent and Medway CCG.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) and the Kent and Medway CCG are working together to improve mental health services across Kent and Medway. The mental health unit at St Martin's (west site) in Canterbury is part of this review.
- b) St Martin's Hospital (east) houses the Heather Ward (formerly named Samphire Ward). The west site housed the Cranmer ward, but this facility was shut in February 2020 due its unsuitability. The site has been sold to Homes England, with money from its sale being invested in local mental health services.
- c) Moving the beds from Cranmer into Heather ward (essentially amalgamating two former wards into one) resulted in a temporary 15 bed reduction (around 6% of the total bed base of adult inpatient acute beds available across Kent and Medway). As of September 2020, there were 246 general acute mental health inpatient beds available across seven sites in Kent and Medway.

2) Joint scrutiny

- a) The Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) considered the changes on 1 March and 23 July 2019. In discussion, it was clear to the Committee that the changes discussed represented more than just a site reconfiguration and formed part of a broader reconfiguration of mental health services across Kent and Medway. With regards the specific change brought before the Committee, it agreed "the proposed change to St. Martin's Hospital (west) to be a substantial variation of service."
- b) The Medway Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) considered the "outline of proposed changes to the way acute adult mental health services were delivered across Kent and Medway with particular

Item 5: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital

potential impact on the St Martin's Hospital Site, Canterbury" on 20 August 2019. The Committee resolved that it "considered the proposed service change and determined that it constituted a substantial development of or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority's area."

- c) As both health scrutiny committees declared the St Martin's proposals to be a substantial variation, formal scrutiny passed to a joint committee. In line with Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) may:
 - i) make comments on the proposal;
 - ii) require the provision of information about the proposal;
 - iii) require the relevant NHS bodies and health service providers to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.
- d) The legislation makes provision for local authorities to refer a substantial variation of service to the Secretary of State in certain circumstances. The JHOSC cannot itself refer a decision to the Secretary of State, but may recommend a course of action to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- e) The JHOSC commenced scrutiny of the St Martin's proposal in February 2020 and received a further update in September 2020. During those meetings, the following key points were raised:
 - i) No negative impact from the reduced bed number was reported.
 - ii) Bed modelling had been carried out. Data suggested that the reduced bed number was adequate for the immediate future, though may be 17 beds short by 2029 unless additional interventions were in place. That year fell to 2024 if planned service developments were not fully realised.
 - iii) A formal options appraisal for the "permanent relocation of services provided on Cranmer Ward" was expected in due course.
 - iv) Legal advice had been sought by the Programme Board over whether the reduction in beds for up to five years was "temporary", though there was not a definitive answer.
 - v) Additional community resources (such as community services, safe havens, and crisis support) were planned to be implemented.
 - vi) An evaluation of the 24/7 signposting service was expected in February 2021 when there would be 12 months of data available.
 - vii) As of September 2020, no formal public consultation/ engagement had taken place.
- f) At its last meeting on 28 September 2020, the JHOSC resolved that the report be noted, and the following action be taken:

Item 5: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital

- i) Mrs Benbow to circulate a written update regarding Thanet Safe Haven.
- ii) A report be provided concerning the impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health Services, including Section 136 Mental Health Services and inpatient bed demand, for the next meeting.

3) Next Steps

- a) When the CCG informed the HASC and HOSC about its proposed change to St Martin's Hospital in summer 2019, it became clear during the discussion that the proposal was just one part of a wider planned set of changes to acute adult mental health services across Kent and Medway. Those wider plans were in an early stage of development and the home authorities were unable to determine if they constituted a substantial variation of service.
- b) The home authorities decided the proposed closure of St Martin's (west) site was substantial due to the reduction in the bed base (albeit only temporary). At that point, scrutiny of this proposal passed to the JHOSC.
- c) This meeting will be the third opportunity for JHOSC to scrutinise the St Martin's ward closure. As the decision has already been taken, and the site sold, this would be an appropriate time for the Committee to report back to the home authorities about what has happened and ask that those individual scrutiny committees consider the wider mental health transformation programme when more detail is available.
- d) The JHOSC is unable to scrutinise the wider transformation until both home authorities scrutinise the plans and decide if they constitute a substantial variation of service.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the decision of KMPT and KMCCG to close the St Martin's Hospital (West) site and temporarily reduce the acute adult mental health bed base by 15 and take one of the following actions:

- i. Recommend that the Medway HASC and Kent HOSC consider the closure in the broader context of the proposals to reconfigure mental health services more widely.
- ii. Note the decision and ask that the CCG and KMPT continue to update the JHOSC until a permanent decision is made on the St. Martin's (west) proposal.

Item 5: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2019) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (01/03/19)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7926&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23/07/19)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8282&Ver=4>

Medway Council (2019) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (20/08/2019)*',
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=4522&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee (06/02/20)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8624&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee (28/09/20)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8675&Ver=4>

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