

# **Continuation of work to establish the Kent & Medway vascular network and interim arterial centre**

## **1. Purpose of Paper**

NHS England & Improvement, Specialised Commissioning South East, attended the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to report on the urgent need to move Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm repairs (AAA) (part of the vascular service) out of Medway Foundation Trust due to patient safety concerns. NHS England Specialised Commissioning SE also updated on the planned public and patient consultation work due in Summer 2020 on the recommended move to an interim Main Arterial Centre based at Kent & Canterbury Hospital for specialised inpatient vascular activity. This previous paper is attached as Annex A.

The proposed public and patient consultation and engagement on both the emergency move of AAA repairs and the recommended move to an Interim Main Arterial Centre based at Kent and Canterbury Hospital have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NHSE/I Specialised Commissioning SE have committed to updating the committee regarding progress. We are now in a position to progress the public and patient consultation and proceed with the proposed move to an interim arterial centre by Autumn 2021 and are therefore providing the following update on the work programme and the engagement activities.

## **2. Update on proposed public and patient engagement**

There have been a number of public and patient consultation periods and engagement events in relation to the move of inpatient vascular services to Kent & Canterbury Hospital over a number of years since the vascular services review began (set out in Annex A). However due to the time lapse since our last public engagement events, and the changed healthcare situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our plans are to hold a further six week public consultation period on both the emergency move of AAA repairs to Kent & Canterbury Hospital together with the proposed interim vascular main arterial centre at Kent & Canterbury Hospital. A staff consultation will also be run alongside the public consultation.

NHS England Specialised Commissioning are working with a specialist public engagement agency to ensure this process is carried out robustly, and reaches all target groups, including staff, patients and seldom heard groups.

Target groups include:

- patients of vascular services, and those with experience of relevant services, such as diabetic clinics and vascular screening programmes
- relevant third sector organisations with experience of these patient groups
- staff at all organisations, especially those in affected services

The intention is to run this consultation in April & May 2021. The earliest the proposed move could begin is Autumn 2021. The consultation exercise has been tailored to be thorough but compliant with COVID-19 restrictions. Multiple methods will be used to reach people, including surveys, written information and online focus groups and workshops. Provision will be made for those without online access, such as via telephone interviews. Seldom heard groups will also be specifically targeted via relevant third sector organisations. A final written

report on the consultation activities will be completed and made available to both NHS England Specialised Commissioning and Kent & Medway CCG.

The views, comments and concerns raised by patients, the public and staff will be used to inform the mobilisation plan for the proposed move to an interim arterial centre and action will be taken to mitigate substantial concerns raised. This will be laid out in a final decision paper.

We would intend to bring this final decision paper, with the outcome of the consultation work, to the JHOSC in Summer 2021, ahead of any move taking place in the Autumn.

If any individual Member of the JHOSC wishes to know more or has any comments, we would like to hear them. Please email Susan Woollard ([susan.woollard@nhs.net](mailto:susan.woollard@nhs.net)).