

Item 7: Mental health transformation - Eradication of mental health dormitory wards

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 June 2021

Subject: Mental health transformation - Eradication of mental health dormitory wards

Summary: This report falls under the transformation of mental health services in Kent and Medway.

The Committee has yet to determine if this workstreams' proposals constitute a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) As part of a £650m government pledge to replace outdated mental health dormitories,¹ Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) have been allocated £12.56m of capital funding to replace dormitory wards used by older adults with mental health issues, including dementia, with purpose-built accommodation.
- b) KMPT are seeking to use the funding to support the construction of a new facility on the KMPT Maidstone site, which will increase overall capacity by two beds. This facility will replace the Ruby ward at Medway Maritime Hospital.
- c) Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) considered the item on 11 March 2021 and determined that the proposal was a substantial variation of service for their residents. The work undertaken by the CCG since that meeting is included in their report and appendices.

2) Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether the proposal to replace the Ruby ward at Medway Maritime Hospital with a new purpose-built facility on the KMPT Maidstone site constitutes a substantial variation of service.
- b) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.

¹Department of Health and Social Care (10 October 2020) Over £400 million pledged to remove dormitories from mental health facilities <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-400-million-pledged-to-remove-dormitories-from-mental-health-facilities>

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2) Recommendation

If the proposed change to adult mental health services is *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems the proposed reprovision of services from Ruby ward, Medway Maritime Hospital to the Maidstone Hospital site to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Kent and Medway CCG be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at the earliest opportunity.

If the proposed change to adult mental health services is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee does not deem the proposed reprovision of services from Ruby ward, Medway Maritime Hospital to the Maidstone Hospital site to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) the report be noted.

Background Documents

None

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