

## Item 8: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 March 2022

Subject: Urgent Care Review Programme - Swale

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Summary: This report provides the background to the agenda item and attached information provided by the Kent and Medway CCG.

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

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### 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.<sup>1</sup>
- c) In September 2019, provision for urgent care to Swale residents was as follows:<sup>2</sup>
  - 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. Its last update was on 10 June 2021.
- 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, and this was taking place in late 2019. Under the NHS Long Term Plan, urgent care proposals were due to be in place by autumn 2020.

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

<sup>2</sup> ibid

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- c) At its meeting on 4 March 2021, HOSC were notified that the project was still in its early stages with little progression since the previous update in September 2019, in part due to the onset of the pandemic.
- d) KMCCG returned to the Committee on 10 June 2021 and explained that the expectation was to introduce an Urgent Treatment Centre model, with a GP-led Urgent Care Centre (UTC) model offering an integrated service. An interim service was anticipated to be in place by October 2021 with a full UTC service from July 2022.
- e) Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the report and invited the CCG to provide an update at the appropriate time.

### 3) Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- a) The Committee has yet to determine if the Swale and Medway Urgent Care Review Programme proposals constitute 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.

### 4) Recommendation

If the proposed change to urgent care in Swale is *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems proposed changes to urgent care in Swale to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Swale CCG be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at the next meeting.

If the proposed change to urgent care in Swale is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee does not deem the proposed changes to urgent care by the Swale CCG to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) the report be noted.

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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>

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>

Kent County Council (2021) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (4/03/2021)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8500&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2021) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/06/2021)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8501&Ver=4>

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