

Item 9: Provision of GP services in Kent

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 March 2022

Subject: Provision of GP services in Kent

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

1) Introduction

- a) HOSC has raised concerns about the provision of GP services locally. Members have raised concerns about the quality of services, the use of virtual instead of face-to-face appointments, and access issues.
- b) A background report was presented to HOSC at its September 2021 meeting, setting out how GPs work, what issues have been recognised nationally, and suggestions for lines of enquiry the Committee may wish to pursue.
- c) Representatives from the Kent and Medway CCG and the Local Medical Committee attended a meeting on 11 November to answer the Committee's questions. Key discussion points included:
 - i) The benefits and drawbacks of virtual appointments.
 - ii) The GP contractor model versus salaried doctors.
 - iii) The workforce.
 - iv) The use of technology and social media.
 - v) Interaction between NHS 111 and GPs.
- d) Following the discussion, the Chair requested that a follow up report be brought to the Committee in March, to include the following items:
 - a) Detail around how contracts for new GP surgeries were awarded.
 - b) More information around the closure of practices over lunch.
 - c) A quantified analysis of unmet need in primary care.
 - d) Primary care estates information, including the use of Section 106 money and role of councillors in securing new provision.
 - e) An update on the rollout of the Primary Care Network and development of the General Practice Strategy.
 - f) The GP Estates strategy*.
 - g) How e-consult might be better utilised, and what role personal fitness devices might play in the future.
 - h) The role and importance of PPGs and whether they were all running again.
- e) Representative from the K&M CCG and LMC have been invited to attend today's meeting for further discussion.

**The GP Estates Strategy document was shared with Members of the Committee via email on 14 February 2022.*

Item 9: Provision of GP services in Kent

2. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2021) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (16/09/21)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8759&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2021) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/11/21)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8760&Ver=4>

Contact Details

Kay Goldsmith
Scrutiny Research Officer
kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk
03000 416512