

HOSC Briefing Paper

May 2022

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Is there a duty for trusts to co-operate to reduce waiting times?

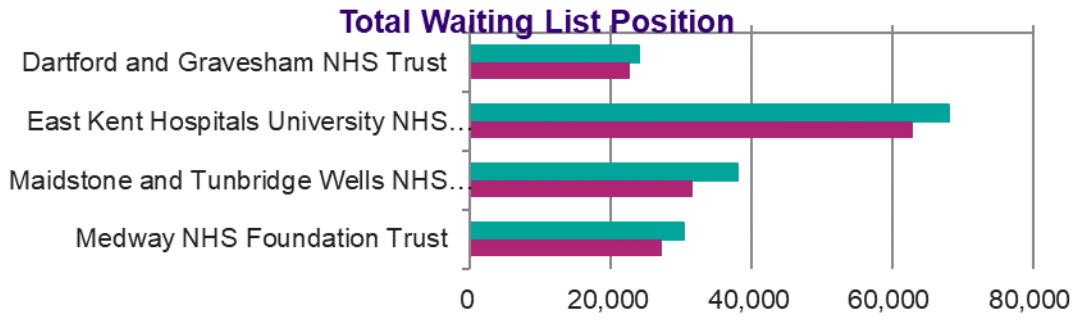
What are current waiting lists for each acute provider in Kent and Medway and the surrounding areas.

Except for where there is a contractual obligation for a trust to take other trusts patients for example in a hub and spoke model or where a trust has been commissioned to provide a service for the region often where specialised services are concerned then there is no duty to co-operate, a trust does not have to accept other trusts patients based on shorter waiting times except for patient choice.

A patient does have the right to choose a different provider if the one they have been referred to has a wait time of over 18 weeks there are some exceptions, and they can be found here. [The NHS Choice Framework: what choices are available to me in the NHS? - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-choice-framework-what-choices-are-available-to-me-in-the-nhs).

However, in the Kent and Medway area the CCG have been using a shared waiting list for 6 months moving patients within the area to reduce waiting times, to date we have successfully moved 1122 patients from trusts with long wait times to either other trusts or the independent sector this is supporting Kent & Medway CCG's vision of a single waiting list.

Please see below waiting list information, as of March 2022 the Kent and Medway area is sitting at a performance measure of 66% for patients to receive treatment within 18 weeks this is compared nationally to 63%.



**** Green bar is total wait list, purple bar is against H2 plan****