

Item 6: Podiatry Service (Foster Street, Maidstone) – proposal to change location

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 July 2022

Subject: Podiatry Service (Foster Street, Maidstone) – proposal to change location

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT).

Members have yet to decide whether this is a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) Podiatry is the study, diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the feet and ankles. In Kent, the service is provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT). Services are currently located in Foster Street, Maidstone.
- b) The provider contacted HOSC's clerk in June 2022 regarding a need to change the location of the service. KCHFT has been invited to attend HOSC today and update them on the background to the project along with future plans.

2) Potential Substantial variation of service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether the relocation of podiatry services constitutes a substantial variation of service. The health scrutiny regulations do not define what a "substantial variation" is, therefore it is for the Committee to make that determination, taking into account the impact and extent of the proposal.
- 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.
- c) If the Committee deems a proposal a substantial variation of service, KCHFT shall consult with the Committee prior to the final decision being made. The NHS always remains the decision-maker though must take comments of the Committee into account.
- d) When KCHFT determines the date it will make a final decision on the relocation, it must let HOSC know. Sufficient time shall be allowed for the Committee to make comments on the proposed decision ahead of this date.
- e) Once KCHFT have made a decision, they shall formally presented it at a meeting of the Committee as soon as is practical after it has been taken. The Committee will determine its response to the decision and may support the decision, not support the decision, and/or comment on the decision.

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- f) Where the Committee does not support the decision, it can refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under one of the following reasons:
- a) The consultation with the Committee on the proposal is deemed to have been inadequate in relation to content or time allowed,
 - b) The reasons given for not consulting with the Committee on a proposal are inadequate, or
 - c) The proposal is not considered to be in the interests of the health services of the area.

3. Recommendation

If the proposal to relocate the podiatry service is deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that the relocation of podiatry services is a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

If the proposal to relocate the podiatry service is not deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that relocation of podiatry services is not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

None.

Contact Details

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