

## Item 4: Reconfiguration of Acute Stroke Services

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 November 2022

Subject: Reconfiguration of Acute Stroke Services

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

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

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### 1) Introduction

- a) The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board is establishing three Hyper Acute Stroke Services (HASUs) to serve Kent and Medway. These will be located in Maidstone, Ashford and Dartford.
- b) The implementation follows a long period of planning, consultation, and challenges. A summary timeline was set out in a paper to HOSC in [January 2022](#).
- c) Officers from the Kent and Medway CCG attended HOSC on 26 January 2022 setting out how the units would be implemented. They were accompanied by colleagues from South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) who spoke about their role in caring for stroke patients. Key points of the discussion included:
  - i) Stroke services were consolidated on three sites in the county (Dartford, Maidstone and Canterbury).
  - ii) Three travel advisory groups were to be re-established, which would listen to the concerns of patients and families and put strategies in place to address these concerns.
  - iii) Ms Jones (Executive Director Strategy and Population Health at K&M CCG) committed that within six months of HASUs being operational, each of the three units would be A rated (this would be evident after 9 months due to a 3 month lag in data, so December 2023).
  - iv) The use of telemedicine had reduced the number of non-stroke patients being sent to a stroke unit which had resulted in improved patient flow.
- d) The Kent and Medway ICB has been invited to attend today's meeting and provide an update on the implementation of the HASUs. In the past, Member concerns have centred on travel times; staffing levels over the long-term; and inequalities.

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### **2. Recommendation**

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report and that the ICB be invited to return with an update at the appropriate time.

### **Background Documents**

Kent County Council (2022) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26/01/2022),  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8761&Ver=4>

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