

Item 7: Local provision of ophthalmology services (Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area)

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 November 2022

Subject: Provision of Ophthalmology Services (Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area)

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

The Committee has already determined the changes do not constitute a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) Ophthalmologists diagnose, treat and prevent disorders of the eyes and visual system.¹
- b) The Kent and Medway CCG (K&M CCG) and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) attended HOSC in July 2021 to update the Committee on plans for the ongoing provision of ophthalmology services in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.
- c) Following the withdrawal of a London Provider (Moorfields) to patients in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, K&M CCG took action to ensure those patients continued to have access to services. MTW provided interim care. Cataract surgery, which represents the majority of treatments affected by the service transfer, were at the time of the meeting being carried out at an independent sector site in Gillingham using MTW clinicians. The long term aspiration was to develop a centre of excellence within the footprint of Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.
- d) Following the discussion, the Committee resolved that:
 - a) the Committee does not deem the proposed changes to ophthalmology services to be a substantial variation of service.
 - b) the report be noted.
 - c) an update on the effectiveness of the service changes be received at the appropriate time.
- e) The ICB has been invited to attend today's HOSC meeting and provide an update in relation to item (c) above.

¹ NHS (2021) Ophthalmology, <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/ophthalmology>

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2) Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2021) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 July 2021,
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8758&Ver=4>

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