

Item 10: Sexual Assault Referral Centre - Kent

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 November 2022

Subject: Sexual Assault Referral Centre - Kent

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS England South East.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) The Chair of HOSC was contacted by NHS England South East Region in May 2022 regarding a location change for Kent's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). The service is commissioned by NHS England, the Police Force and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It serves all ages and deals with forensics and wraparound care for new patients as well as historic cases that come to light.
- b) The current service is delivered from Armstrong Road, Maidstone and provided by Mountain Healthcare.
- c) Due to a change in the accreditation process, the current facility is not suitable to provide the SARC service in the long term.

2) Potential Substantial variation of service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. There are no formal criteria setting out what a substantial variation of service is, and it is down to the Committee to decide.
- b) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent it from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.
- c) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as being substantial, the NHS must consult with it prior to a final decision being made, though the NHS always remains the decision maker.
- d) Once the final decision has been reported to HOSC, the Committee shall decide if it supports the decision, does not support the decision, and/or provide comment on it. Where it does not support the decision, the Committee can refer it to the Secretary of State.

3. Recommendation

If the proposals relating to the relocation of Kent's Sexual Assault Referral Centre are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that the relocation of Kent's Sexual Assault Referral Centre 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 proposals relating to the relocation of Kent's Sexual Assault Referral Centre are not deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that the relocation of Kent's Sexual Assault Referral Centre is not a substantial variation of service.

Background Documents

None.

Contact Details

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