

## Item 5: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 November 2022

Subject: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT).

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### 1) Introduction

- a) A report of the Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services was published on 19 October 2022. A link to the report can be found below.
- b) Whilst the investigation was ongoing, HOSC's ability to scrutinise EKHUFT's maternity services was restricted but at their meeting on 17 September 2020 the Committee requested the item return once the final investigation report had been published.
- c) Following media coverage earlier in the year, the Trust provided a written update to the Committee on 26 January 2022. Concerns were raised about midwifery staffing levels at the Trust and the subsequent suspension of the home birth service.
- d) Representatives from the Trust have been invited to attend today's meeting to discuss the findings of the Report and provide detail on improvements that have been, and will be, made in response to concerns raised.

### 2. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the update and the Trust be invited to return at an appropriate time.

### Background Documents

Kent County Council (2020) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (05/03/20)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8286&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (22/07/20)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8496&Ver=4>

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Kent County Council (2020) *'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (17/09/20)'*,  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8497&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2022) *'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26/01/22)'*,  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8761&Ver=4>

Care Quality Commission, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust,  
Overview and CQC inspection ratings, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RVV>

Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services,  
<https://iiekms.org.uk/about-the-investigation/>

Reading the signals - Maternity and neonatal services in East Kent – the Report of  
the Independent Investigation (2022),  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maternity-and-neonatal-services-in-east-kent-reading-the-signals-report>

### **Contact Details**

Kay Goldsmith  
Scrutiny Research Officer  
[kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416512