

Item 13: East Kent Transformation Programme

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 December 2023

Subject: East Kent Transformation Programme

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the information provided by NHS Kent and Medway and the decision of the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2023.

It is a written briefing only and no guests will be present to speak on this item.

1) Introduction

- a) The East Kent Transformation Programme was established to improve outcomes for patients, make East Kent Hospitals an exciting place to work and provide modern, fit for purpose hospitals.¹ Two proposals were shortlisted, which were: to build a two site emergency department model with William Harvey Hospital as the Major Emergency Centre; or to build a one site emergency department model with Kent and Canterbury Hospital as the Major Emergency Centre.
- b) A Pre-Consultation Business Case was written and assessed both options as requiring the same level of NHS financial investment (£460 million), though the second option would include additional private investment.
- c) In October 2021, a bid for £460 million was submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) under the Government's New Hospital Programme. Though market testing took place whilst a decision was pending, no formal public consultation could commence without secured capital funding.
- d) In May 2023, the Government announced the names of the five hospitals that would be rebuilt under the New Hospital Programme – East Kent was not included on the list.

2) Joint Scrutiny

- a) In cases where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of more than one authority has determined the same proposal to be a substantial variation of service, this will entail the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). Where a JHOSC has been established, the home authority is deemed to have delegated its function to scrutinise a

¹ Kent and Medway Integrated Care System,
<https://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/transformation-projects/east-kent>

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specific proposal to the JHOSC until it has concluded its consideration and made recommendations to the authorities represented on the JHOSC.

- b) The Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) and Kent HOSC both considered the proposals relating to Transforming Health and Care in East Kent in 2018 and declared them to be substantial. In line with regulation, formal scrutiny of the proposals transferred to the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) though reports have been shared with the Kent HOSC for their information.
- c) After the unsuccessful funding bid in May 2023, NHS Kent and Medway and EKHUFT attended a JHOSC meeting on 3 November 2023. The report is attached to this paper. The Joint Committee discussed the report and the inability for East Kent to move forwards with either of the two proposals without secured funding. Members considered that the proposals that had been declared substantial in 2018 were no longer possible and therefore the Chair proposed the item return to the home authorities until such time as new proposals were presented and a new decision around substantial variation could be made.
- d) At the end of the meeting, the Committee

RESOLVED that joint scrutiny of the East Kent Transformation Programme cease in light of the lack of capital to proceed with the original proposals. The Programme will return to Medway and Kent health scrutiny committees for future scrutiny.

3) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that:
 - i) the Committee consider the NHS report and note the decision of the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to return formal scrutiny of East Kent Transformation to the Kent HOSC and Medway HASC.
 - ii) The NHS Kent and Medway and EKHUFT be invited to return to the Committee with amended proposals once available.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2023) 'Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (3/11/23)',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=9381&Ver=4>

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