

Item: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – Clinical Strategy Overview

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 July 2024

Subject: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – Clinical Strategy Overview

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) At its meeting on 21 July 2021, the Committee received a paper about the clinical strategy reconfiguration at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW). The Committee RESOLVED to:
 - i) agree to receive regular updates on Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust clinical strategy; and
 - ii) agree to determine on an individual basis if the workstreams constitute a substantial variation of service.
- b) To date, HOSC has received information about the following workstreams:
 - i) Cardiology – July 2021, November 2021, March 2022
 - ii) Digestive Diseases Unit – July 2021
 - iii) Elective Orthopaedics – May 2022
 - iv) Repatriating bariatric care – Dec 2023
- c) None of these were declared a substantial variation of service.
- d) At the last update, in May 2023, key points included:
 - i) A&E performance ranked 4th or 5th in the UK.
 - ii) Capital investment for cardiology improvements was proving hard to secure.
 - iii) The improvements to Women's Services had been challenging, in part due to high vacancy rates.
 - iv) The Trust was working closely with East Kent Hospitals on the reprovision of radiotherapy – this would require a substantial business case as well as significant capital investment.

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- v) The Trust was investigating acquiring a surgical robot for Urology.
- vi) There was an opportunity to develop a Kent and Medway Orthopaedic Service to help support the long term reduction in waiting lists and manage long term demand. The service was to be delivered alongside acute trust partners, and they had been successful in international recruitment. Subject to approval, the intention was to open the unit in March 2024.
- vii) Where possible, providers across Kent and Medway were looking for opportunities to bring care closer to residents by repatriating services from London. A dedicated paper was taken to HOSC in December 2023.
- e) The Trust has been invited to attend today's meeting to provide an update on the strategy's implementation. They have provided the attached overview of the Strategy and will provide an update on the developments at the meeting.

2) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2021) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (21/07/21)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8758&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2021) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/11/21)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8760&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2022) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (02/03/22)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8762&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2022) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/05/22)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8763&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2023) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (15/05/23)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9053&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2023) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7/12/23)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9319&Ver=4>

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