

Item: Winter rehabilitation and reablement pilot in east Kent

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 July 2024

Subject: Winter rehabilitation and reablement pilot in east Kent

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by KCHFT. The Committee has yet to determine if the proposals constitute a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) presented a paper to HOSC in [October 2023](#) setting out plans to modernise the approach to delivering rehabilitation, recovery and reablement in community hospitals in east and west Kent.
- b) The case for change was to be informed by a 6-month pilot over the 2023 winter period in two east Kent community hospitals (Westbrook House in Margate and West View Integrated Care Centre in Tenterden).
- c) KCHFT have been invited to present an update on the plans at today's HOSC meeting, following a review of the 6-month pilot.

2) Potential Substantial variation of service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. There is 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 decides a proposal is substantial, the NHS is required to consult with it prior to a final decision being made. The NHS always remains the decision-maker though must take the comments of the Committee into account.
- c) In considering substantial variations of service, the Committee will take into account the resource envelope within which the relevant NHS organisations operate and will therefore take into account the effect of the proposals on the sustainability of services, as well as on their quality and safety.

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3) Recommendation

a) If the proposals relating to Community Hospitals in east and west Kent are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that the changes to Community Hospitals in east and west Kent are a substantial variation of service.
- ii. NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

b) If the proposals relating to Community Hospitals in east and west Kent are not deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that the changes to Community Hospitals in east and west Kent are not a substantial variation of service.
- ii. NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2023) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (05/10/23), <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9318&Ver=4>

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