

Item: NHS Kent and Medway Community Services review and procurement

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 July 2024

Subject: NHS Kent and Medway Community Services review and procurement

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Summary: This report provides background information for members.

The Committee has determined the proposals do not constitute a substantial variation of service.

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## 1) Introduction

- a) NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) are developing the Community Services model of care in Kent and Medway.
- b) The incumbent Community Services contracts expired at the end of March 2024 and at the last update to HOSC, received in December 2023, the proposal was to extend those contracts to September 2025. This would be made up of an initial 1-year contract with the possibility for a further one-year extension, if agreed by providers and the ICB, with a 6-month notice period/break clause included.
- c) The proposed extension was to allow the ICB to harmonise the three contracts currently held by MCH, HCRG and Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) from a contract end date perspective, allow transformation work to begin to improve services for patients, and enable a full and transparent procurement of the services to be instigated and be in place no later than September 2025.

## 2) Previous Scrutiny

- a) The ICB attended HOSC on 6 September 2023, setting out their plan to award new contracts in April 2024. The first year would be on a like-for-like basis with the incumbent contracts, allowing time for engagement and transformation. A new model of care would then come into effect from year 2.
- b) The Committee raised concerns around:
  - i) a lack of detail about consultation and how co-designing services would be achieved.
  - ii) a lack of detail in the report regarding the costs of recommissioning services and the plan for co-production.
  - iii) staff struggling to perform their main duties at the same time as looking to transform services.
- b) Following discussion at HOSC on 6 September 2023, it was resolved that:

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- i) The Committee deems that proposed changes to the re-procurement of Community Services are not a substantial variation of service.
  - ii) NHS representatives be invited to attend the Committee and present an update at an appropriate time, to include details on financing and engagement.
- c) At the meeting on 7 December 2023, the ICB confirmed they had reviewed the procurement options for Community Services following HOSC and HASC<sup>1</sup> meetings in September. It was explained that a new contract extension would be made to the three existing community providers for up to two years with a six-month break clause. The additional time would allow for harmonisation of contracts while further engagement was undertaken with providers, stakeholders and patients to develop the new models of care and ensure the right services were offered in the right locations.

### **3) Listening events**

- a) NHS Kent and Medway are currently promoting surveys and listening events to hear from people working in and alongside community services as well as those using them. They are promoting ways to get involved through social media, through partners, VCSE organisations and through some advertising in the Kent Messenger.
- b) Further details about the Community Health Services engagement, along with dates and booking options, can be found online:  
[www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk](http://www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk)

### **4) Recommendation**

- a) The Committee is asked to note the report and invite the ICB to provide an update at the appropriate time.

## **Background Documents**

Kent County Council (2023) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (19/07/23)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9054&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2023) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (6/09/23)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9388&Ver=4>

Medway Council (2023) 'Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (20/09/23)',  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=5809>

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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<sup>1</sup> Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee declared the proposals substantial at their meeting on 20 September 2023.

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