

## Wells Health Fordcombe Hospital

The purpose of this paper is to provide Kent's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the extent to which the purchase of Fordcombe Hospital has been beneficial one year after opening.

### Introduction

Fordcombe Hospital is a modern hospital close to Tunbridge Wells which was acquired by MTW from Spire Healthcare in April 2024, and came fully under Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTWs) leadership in October 2024.

The hospital has two laminar flow operating theatres, 28 inpatient and day care beds and 10 consultation rooms. It offers a range of diagnostic services including X-Ray, MRI, CT and endoscopy, as well as physiotherapy and pre-operative services.

Fordcombe Hospital offers a wide range of activity, including General Surgery, Urology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, respiratory, gastroenterology, dermatology, breast, ENT, cardiology, general medicine and pain management. We are continuing with a strong operational focus on optimising utilisation to service additional activity, for example filling vacant slots within private sessions with NHS patients when appropriate.

### Activity

Since October 2024 a total of 26,269 episodes of care have been provided at Fordcombe, table 1 provides detail on diagnostic activity and table 2 shows OP and elective activity.

Table 1. Fordcombe Hospital diagnostic activity October 2024 to August 2025

	Total
CT	707
Mammography	203
MRI	4328
Ultrasound	826
Xray	1063
Grand total	7127

There are NHS elective job planned sessions for theatre and diagnostic activity at Fordcombe Hospital, providing additional capacity per month in the form of:

- 10 ENT sessions
- 7 Gynaecology sessions
- 4 Breast surgery sessions
- 2 Orthopaedic sessions
- 160 endoscopy cases

In addition, NHS outpatient job planned sessions at Fordcombe Hospital is providing capacity for a range of specialities including cardiology, ENT, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynaecology, rheumatology and trauma & orthopaedics.

Table 2: Out patients and Elective care activity at Fordcombe October 2024 to August 2025

	Total
Out patients	16953
Elective	2189
Grand total	<b>19142</b>

## Developments

MTW has worked in partnership with Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) to develop additional services, which will support local care provision and further expand system capacity. Examples include:

- Provision of cardiac MRI services, a sub specialist diagnostic activity that previously required Kent and Medway patients to travel into London.
- Development of a venesection service for oncology patients

MTW is working to expand the outpatient capacity at Fordcombe Hospital from 10 to 14 consultation rooms, which will create additional capacity and support for Kent and Medway patients.

## Summary

The acquisition of Fordcombe Hospital last year from Spire Healthcare is enabling MTW to deliver a step change increase in the treatment of long waiting patients from across Kent and Medway. The Trust has been able to create additional capacity across its hospital sites, providing over 26,000 episodes of care.

MTW has treated an additional 2,000 NHS patients from across the system with particular support for ENT and endoscopy which are some of the most challenged services in Kent and Medway. We are working to expand capacity further and working with partners to optimise the services offered through this expanded capacity to benefit the Kent and Medway population.