

## Item 6: Prosthetic Limb Service relocation

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 December 2025

Subject: Prosthetic Limb Service relocation

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board.

The Committee has yet to determine whether the proposals constitute a substantial variation of service. Attached is a completed questionnaire for the Committee's consideration.

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### 1) Introduction

- a) This report provides information to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the re-procurement, mobilisation and relocation of the Prosthetic Limb Service for Medway, Kent and Southeast London.
- b) The Prosthetics Limb Service for Medway, Kent and Southeast London is currently provided by Kent and Medway Mental Health NHS Trust (KMMH) at Medway Maritime Hospital. The service supports around 1,100 people of all ages with limb loss and congenital limb deficiencies.
- c) In 2023, KMMH served notice on their contract, prompting a competitive procurement process under the Provider Selection Regime. Hugh Steeper Limited (Steeper) was successfully awarded the contract, with plans to begin delivery by the end of 2025.
- d) As the new location of the service has now been confirmed (in Maidstone town centre), the Committee is asked to determine whether this relocation constitutes a substantial variation of service.

### 2) Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. While there are no formal criteria setting out what a substantial variation is, attached is a questionnaire, completed by the ICB, to aid the Committee in its decision.
- b) Where the Committee decides that a proposal is a substantial variation of service, the NHS is required to consult with it prior to a final decision being made. The NHS always remains the decision-maker, though it 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

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proposals on the sustainability of services, as well as on their quality and safety.

### 3) Recommendation

- a) If the proposals relating to the relocation of the Prosthetic Limb Service are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that relocation of the Prosthetic Limb Service is 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 the relocation of the Prosthetic Limb Service are *not* deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that relocation of the Prosthetic Limb Service is 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

None.

### Contact Details

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