

Item 5: Changes made to commissioning fertility treatments in Kent and Medway

By: Kay Goldsmith, Assistance Democratic Services Manager (operations)

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 June 2026

Subject: Changes made to commissioning fertility treatments in Kent and Medway

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

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

Introduction

- a) Officers from NHS Kent and Medway have asked to present the attached paper to HOSC, to inform Members about the changes to the NHS funded IVF fertility treatment offer in Kent and Medway. Members of HOSC were notified of the changes via a written briefing on 9 April 2026.
- b) The paper shows the previous policy compared to the new policy, which came into effect on 1 April 2026. This includes the reduction of cycles from 2 to 1, and a reduction in maximum age from 40 to 38.

2) Context

- a) The following information may be useful for Members when scrutinising the new policy.
- b) HOSC were initially consulted about an Assisted Reproductive Technology review in 2018. Both HOSC and Medway's HASC deemed the proposals to be a substantial variation of service and scrutiny passed to the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). At that time, the regulations allowed proposals to be referred to the Secretary of State. The regulations related to health scrutiny changed in 2024, replacing the referral regime with a call-in request.
- c) Scrutiny of the review was suspended in 2020 when the Kent and Medway CCG (the forerunner to the ICB) declared they were not progressing the changes at that time, but scrutiny was to resume when the review restarted.
- d) NHS Kent and Medway recognise in their report (part 5) that HOSC should have been formally consulted ahead of these changes being approved and implemented on 1 April 2026.

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3) Recommendation

- a) The Committee is asked to note the report.

Background Documents

Assistive Reproductive Technologies Policy Review - written update (28 Sept 2020)
[Agenda for Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 28th September, 2020, 2.00 pm](#)

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