

## Item 6: Bedgebury Ward: Proposed pathway redesign

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

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 June 2026

Subject: Bedgebury Ward: Proposed pathway redesign

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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.

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### 1) Introduction

- a) Officers from NHS Kent and Medway have asked to present the attached paper to HOSC, to inform Members about a proposed pathway redesign which would result in Bedgebury Ward in Maidstone no longer commissioned.

### 2) Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. There are 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.

### 3) Recommendation

- a) If the proposals relating to the Bedgebury Ward pathway redesign are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that the proposed Bedgebury Ward pathway redesign is a substantial variation of service.
- ii. NHS Kent and Medway representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

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- b) If the proposals relating to the Bedgebury Ward pathway redesign are not deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- i. the Committee deems that the proposed Bedgebury Ward pathway redesign is not a substantial variation of service.
- ii. NHS Kent and Medway representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

### **Background Documents**

None.

### **Contact Details**

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