

Directorate of Civic Engagement

Fit for the Future

Update for Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

8 June 2007

Work on Fit for the Future continues, with the health economy across Kent & Medway on track to deliver a formal update for all stakeholders in July. The public document will describe the work that has been going on within and across health economies over the last year, including:

- Outcomes and key messages from the MORI social research and deliberative event
- Outcomes of local consultation with the public and partners
- Outcomes of the demographic and financial modelling that has been carried out to 2015/16 and the assumptions that we've built into our planning
- Why and what we'll be working on under the Fit for the Future banner both across Kent & Medway and within local health economies, including specific initiatives and next steps

The public document will describe an evolutionary process of modernisation and improvement for the local NHS, providing clarity about the areas we will be focusing on over the next year or so.

For West Kent key initiatives will include:

- Urgent Care – we'll be putting in place 'Urgent Care Centres' where primary care staff can provide a service for non-emergency attendances at A&E. We'll also be considering what more can be done in primary care settings (e.g. GP surgeries and high street pharmacies)
- Planned Care – we'll be looking at key areas where people can be diagnosed and treated in community settings closer to home and reviewing our adult community services to support this
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – subject to the response of the Secretary of State we will be working with MTW to implement the outcomes of the recent Surgical & Orthopaedic Consultation
- Community Hospitals – following the recent review we will be re-vitalising all our community hospitals, including re-opening many of the closed beds, establishing the most modern models of care across all the hospitals and applying for capital funds to upgrade Sevenoaks Hospital and X Ray facilities at Edenbridge. We will also consult on the future of the service provided in the Minor Injuries Unit at Edenbridge, the potential to provide renal dialysis at Tonbridge and the refurbishment, re-building or reprovision of the Livingstone Unit in Dartford
- Children's Services – continuing implementation of the Health Visitors' Review and improving services for children and adolescents with mental health needs (CAMHS) in partnership with the Children's Trust
- Mental Health – we'll be redesigning the adult mental health pathway and improving services for older aged adults with dementia

- End of Life Care – we'll be reviewing the care that's available and working to provide more choice for people at the end of their life

Through all of this we will be continuing on-going discussions with the public and other stakeholders, and are in the process of setting up a Patient Advisory Group to work with us on reviewing and re-designing services. Any substantial variations in service will be subject to full and formal Section 7 consultation as deemed appropriate or necessary in discussion with the HOSC.

Across Kent & Medway we will be focusing on a number of high-level specialty areas (for example vascular and stroke services and trauma services). A major clinical event to support this work is scheduled to take place in July when the National Clinical Advisory Team will be coming to Kent to work with our most senior clinicians across the County. Again, outcomes of this work maybe subject to formal consultation.

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on 24th July in the afternoon we will be sharing more detail about Fit for the Future Next Steps and give councillors the opportunity to speak to a range of clinicians and staff about the service improvements we're planning.

I would value the opportunity for a full discussion with the HOSC, perhaps in September once the public document is published, to talk in more detail about what happens next in West Kent.

Julia Ross
Director of Civic Engagement
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