

Item 6: Adult Mental Health Inpatient Services Review.

By: Tristan Godfrey, Research Officer to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
13 February 2013

Subject: Adult Mental Health Inpatient Services Review

1. Introduction.

- (a) Under *The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/3048)*¹ local NHS bodies must consult the HOSC over any proposals “for a substantial development of the health service in the area of a local authority, or for a substantial variation in the provision of such services.”
- (b) The subsequent *Directions to Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions) 2003*² from the Department of Health stated that when an NHS body consulted two or more local authority health scrutiny committees a joint committee “shall” be established.
- (c) In effect this means that where a service change is proposed that affects an area covered by more than one statutory local authority health scrutiny committee, and where both consider the change to be a “substantial variation,” then a Joint HOSC will need to be established.
- (d) On 9 March 2012 the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Kent County Council determined that the proposals for a review into adult mental health inpatient services in Kent and Medway constituted a substantial variation of service. On 27 March 2012 the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Medway Council made the same decision.
- (e) In order to prepare in advance for a Joint HOSC being required, a Joint Committee with Medway Council was established at the meeting of the County Council of 25 March 2004. The arrangements were updated at County Council on 14 September 2006.³
- (f) The Joint Committee consists of 12 Members: 8 from Kent County Council and 4 from Medway Council.

¹ *The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/3048)*,

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2002/3048/contents/made>

² *Directions to Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions) 2003*,

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalassets/dh_4066609.pdf

³ <http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Data/County%20Council/20060914/Agenda/sep06-item7.pdf>

2. Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- (a) The first meeting of this Committee took place on 3 July 2012 and was established to consider the review into adult inpatient mental health services. Its Terms of Reference are below.
- (b) A visit to Medway Maritime Hospital's A-Block and Dartford's Little Brook Hospital was arranged for JHOSC Members on 25 June 2012. Individual JHOSC Members have also undertaken fact-finding visits on other occasions to these and other sites.
- (c) The Draft Minutes for the 3 July 2012 meeting are appended. As set out in the draft Minutes, Members of the JHOSC requested a range of follow up information:
- Information on the numbers of Medway residents accessing acute mental health inpatient services outside of Medway, and the associated costs in the last 4 years.
 - Details of the levels of staffing at Medway A-Block over the last four years along with an analysis of the changes which could have affected demand.
 - Details of the staffing of the different CRHTs across Kent and Medway, with the location of the new and proposed Support Time Recovery Workers indicated clearly.
 - CQC reports of all the sites involved in the plans.
 - Provide Members with the criteria/site requirements for an alternative to A-Block in Medway and formally write to Members promising to examine any alternative site brought to their attention, giving details of all the options in Medway which have been considered and rejected.
- (d) The information supplied in response to these requests thus far is appended to this report. Information which has not yet been provided in response to the above points has been requested to form part of the information provided by the NHS for the Agenda.
- (e) The following information was provided by email in relation to Appendix 2, information on Medway out of area patients:
- "It shows that around one third of individuals who were Medway resident inpatients over the last four years were placed (at least initially) in non-Medway wards. However, it also shows that only one eighth of inpatient ward spell days used by Medway residents were spent outside Medway A Block. This does not suggest that there were insufficient beds for Medway residents in Medway wards,

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merely that overflows, mainly from east Kent, have often prevented their initial use by Medway services, which is an issue being addressed by the redesign proposals."

(f) The following information was provided by email in relation to Appendix 3, on Medway A Block staffing levels:

- "Staffing levels on the adult acute wards have always been 5 (early) 5 (late) 3 (night) (with a 4th person at night on Emerald Ward) with the Ward Manager doing 9-5 Mon-Fri also. The service has been running at these levels for the last 5 years at least. There is a local protocol whereby staffing levels are increased if activity increases, i.e. if there is a ratio of more than one 1:1 on a ward the staff complement is increased by 1 member of staff."

(g) The exceptions are the Care Quality Commission reports, which are available on the Care Quality Commission website at the following locations:

- Care Quality Commission, *Review of Compliance Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Medway Maritime Hospital*, November 2010:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/reports/RXY_Kent_and_Medway_NHS_and_Social_Care_Partnership_Trust_RXYM1_Medway_Maritime_Hospital_20110308.pdf
- Care Quality Commission, *Review of Compliance Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, St. Martins Hospital*, November 2010:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/reports/RXY_Kent_and_Medway_NHS_and_Social_Care_Partnership_Trust_RX03_St_Martins_Hospital_20110308.pdf
- Care Quality Commission, *Review of Compliance Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Arundel Unit*, November 2010:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/reports/RXY_Kent_and_Medway_NHS_and_Social_Care_Partnership_Trust_RXYA4_The_Arundel_Unit_20110308.pdf
- Care Quality Commission, *Review of Compliance Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Priority House*, November 2010:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/reports/RXY_Kent_and_Medway_NHS_and_Social_Care_Partnership_Trust_RXYP8_Priority_House_20101230.pdf

(h) On 8 January Members were forwarded two reports relating to alternative sites which are under consideration in Medway. These are also included in the Agenda pack.

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- (i) It is understood that the analysis of the consultation, *Achieving excellent care in a mental health crisis*, will be known by the time of this meeting and a recommendation to go to the Boards of both Trusts decided upon. Information specifically about what this recommendation will be and the rationale behind it, information summarising the results of the consultation process, evaluation of this evidence and the proposed next steps following on from the decision has been requested by the Committee.
- (j) In addition, it has been requested that the information provided include a breakdown of the responses from people in Medway to include the views of service users, families, carers and staff.
- (k) Information has also been requested on what progress has been made in addressing the concerns raised by the Committee about transportation to take into account those who may have to travel further to access acute bed provision in the future. In particular the Committee has been previously advised that KMPT is committed to assisting service users' family and friends with the journey from Bluewater to Little Brook Hospital through a range of measures including alignment of Little Brook bus times with ward visiting times. The Committee has expressed an interest in seeing the transport plan for this so we can find out the frequency of the service and if it extends to evenings, weekends and Bank holidays.

3. Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Terms of Reference

- (i) To receive evidence in relation to consultations initiated by local NHS bodies regarding proposals for substantial development or variation of the health service which effect both Medway and a substantial part of Kent.
- (ii) To make comments on behalf of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees of Medway and Kent on any such proposals to the NHS body undertaking the consultation.
- (iii) To undertake other scrutiny reviews of health services if requested to do so by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees of both Medway and Kent
- (iv) To report on such other scrutiny reviews to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees of Medway and Kent.

4. Recommendation

That the Committee consider and comment on the report.

Background Documents

Agenda, Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
Tuesday 3 July 2012,

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=4918&Ver=4>

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