

Item 5: 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,
19 March 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. It is a standalone Committee convened to look at this specific issue. Its Terms of Reference are at the end of this report.
- (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) At the meeting of 3 July 2013, the Committee agreed the following recommendation:
- "That the Committee approves the NHS decision to take the proposals in the report to three months public consultation between late July and late October 2012 and looks forward to a consultation document which will take into account the concerns expressed at this meeting and that these concerns will also be addressed by the further information to be provided and the further site visits to be arranged."
- (c) The second meeting was held on 13 February 2013. The draft Minutes of this meeting are included in this Agenda. The Committee agreed the following recommendation:
- "That the Committee convene another meeting in the near future to receive responses to the questions raised by Members."
- (d) Along with information submitted by NHS Kent and Medway and Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, the following documents are included in this Agenda:
- Proposal from Medway Councillors appointed to the Joint KCC/Medway Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13 February 2013.
 - Medway Council – summary of concerns and questions, 13 February 2013.
 - Letter from Felicity Cox, 15 February 2013.
 - Letter to Felicity Cox, 19 February 2013.
 - Public Questions for NHS Kent & Medway Cluster Board, 20 February 2013
 - Letter from Felicity Cox, 20 February 2013.
 - Letter to Felicity Cox, 28 February 2013.
 - A critical analysis of the data presented in the KMPT Acute service review and redesign 2012, Prepared for the Medway Council Health

Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, Stephen Allan, PSSRU,
University of Kent, March 2013.

**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>

Agenda, Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
Tuesday 13 February 2013,
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=5155&Ver=4>

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