NHS
Canterbury and Coastal
Clinical Commissioning Group

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

31 January 2014

Update on the review of the procurement process for Faversham Minor Injuries Unit and further consultation with the people of Faversham and elected representatives

Background

1.1 In November 2013 NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) made a request to attend the Kent County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (KCC HOSC). This was to brief members on the outcome of the procurement process for Faversham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) and the development of the urgent care and long term conditions strategy. Dr Mark Jones, Clinical Chair and Simon Perks, Accountable Officer, attended the meeting and briefed members.

1.2 They informed the committee that the procurement process had been lengthy, starting in 2009. It had involved extensive discussions with GPs, patient groups, friends of the cottage hospital and members of the public to develop and agree a service specification which people in Faversham said they wanted. The procurement also formed part of a wider strategy to develop an east Kent wide specification for minor injury services. This was to ensure that a consistent service is provided across the area.

1.3 Despite having conducted a thorough procurement process, fully in line with Department of Health (DoH) guidelines, Dr Jones informed the committee that the CCG had been unable to find a provider who could deliver the service to the clinical specification set out by the CCG or within the nationally set financial framework. As a result, the CCG governing body had to regrettably take a decision to close the service on 31 March 2014.

1.4 At the November HOSC meeting, Members raised a number of questions and made comments about the procurement process.

1.5 At the end of the discussion, the committee asked the CCG to set aside its decision to close the service to allow a new procurement exercise to be undertaken after taking advice and with full consultation with the people of Faversham and their democratically elected representatives.

2. Progress

Since the HOSC meeting on the 29 November, the CCG has:

2.1 Discussed the HOSC request at its 4 December governing body meeting. The governing body noted its appreciation of the HOSC's scrutiny and reaffirmed its intention to continue to work with Members and keep them updated on developments. The governing body also agreed to approach the current provider to extend the service until September 2014 to allow a review of the procurement process and further consultation with local people and their democratically elected representatives. This will take place alongside a wider

review of all services which are delivered in the community (known as the 'Community Services Review').

2.2 Dr Jones, Simon Perks, Cllr David Simmons and Dr Simon Lundy (Faversham GP) met key stakeholders on December 6 including Hugh Robertson MP, representatives of the local council and local GPs. At this meeting it was agreed to :

- Extend the current contract for the MIU until after the conclusion of the Community Services Review.

- Consider the future of the MIU alongside the findings of the Community Services Review. The Community Services Review will look to ensure a long term viable future for Faversham's Cottage Hospital that meets the needs of the town in the years ahead.

- Conduct the review of the MIU procurement process by engaging with The Friends of the Hospital, all of Faversham's GPs, their patient groups and the town's elected representatives including councillors and MP.

2.3 Attended a public meeting on December 6 to hear local people's concerns about the potential closure of the MIU and outline the way forward. The CCG noted the strong views of local people and their wish for the CCG to do everything possible to keep the MIU open.

2.4 Formed a steering group to review the procurement process which includes representatives from:

- Faversham GPs (Dr Simon Lundy)
- The Friends of the Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres and Faversham Town Council (David Simmons)
- Faversham GP practice patient groups (Brenda Chester)
- Swale Borough Council (Amber Christou)
- Kent County Council (Henry Swan)
- Healthwatch (Steve Innet).

2.5 Agreed with Swale Borough Council, the scope of a review of the CCG's decision which takes into account feedback from local people and stakeholders.

The review will include four workstreams to examine the:

- Development of the tender specification
- The procurement process the CCG followed
- Suitability of the current site to house X-ray
- All X-ray activity in Faversham, including both the MIU and wider access to X-ray services for Faversham residents.

2.6 Agreed with Swale Borough Council key objectives for the review which is to:

- Carry out a transparent and honest review of the work the CCG carried out to procure a new MIU service for Faversham.

  And either:

  a. Highlight any changes that could be made to ensure that, in the event of a further procurement, a successful bidder emerges,

  Or

b. Provide very clearly evidence (with agreement from stakeholders) why a future procurement would also lead to the same outcome as the last one (i.e. no successful bidder).

2.7 Responded to a request from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Health to provide further information on Faversham MIU. This was requested to inform the SoS's response to the letter he received from the Chairman of HOSC, Mr Robert Brookbank.

3. Next steps

3.1 The CCG has agreed a review process with the steering group which will:

- Form stakeholder sub-groups for each of the four workstreams.
- Share all documentation which was used in the unsuccessful procurement process with each sub-group to provide opportunity to analyse and comment on the work that was carried out by the CCG.
- Hold an initial review meeting to agree what, if any, further work needs to be done in each area of the review.
- Compile a short report for each workstream.
- Reconvene the sub-group for each workstream to agree and sign off the report.
- Present the final reports to the steering group for sign off.

3.2 The CCG has also approached HOSC to attend the April 2014 committee meeting to update Members on the outcome of the review.