

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

April 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.**

1. 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. 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. It was requested that this was carried out in consultation with the people of Faversham and their democratically elected representatives.
- 1.5. At the January HOSC meeting, the CCG advised Members that the CCG Governing Body had decided to:
 - Consider the future of the MIU alongside the findings of the Community Services Review. This 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.
 - Extend the current contract for the MIU until after the conclusion of the Community Services Review.

- Conduct a 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. Progress

The CCG recognises that the review continues to be a work in progress. Since the January HOSC meeting the CCG has:

- 2.1. Formed a steering group which includes local patients, HealthWatch Kent, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council and local GPs. The steering group is chaired by the Town Mayor and Chair of the Friends of Faversham Cottage Hospital.
- 2.2. The inclusion of the local GP practices and patient representatives has meant we have been able to demonstrate much stronger engagement than the CCG has been able to secure in the past.
- 2.3. The group has met on two occasions and to date has:
 - Reviewed all documentation which was used in the unsuccessful procurement process.
 - Analysed and commented on the work that was carried out by the CCG.
 - Identified potential changes to the tendered model, including allowing potential providers to offer direct access X-Ray.
 - Reviewed eight suggestions for the service, including different opening hours and running with and without an X-ray service.
 - Agreed to a smaller working group to further explore the four most realistically deliverable and affordable scenarios. The working group has met twice and is due to report back to the steering group on 15 April with recommendations of preferred options.
 - In working through the scenarios, it is clear that the group have recognised the affordability challenge of commissioning an MIU in Faversham that has in place the appropriate supporting services and can consistently deliver a quality service.
- 2.4. The CCG has received positive feedback that this approach has helped to restore relationships with the local community regarding the MIU. It is also appreciative of the input from all members of the steering group.

3. Next steps

- 3.1. The steering group will meet on 15 April and:
 - Consider the revised scenarios
 - Agree recommendations to the CCG governing body on the preferred model
- 3.2. The CCG also intends to keep HOSC Members updated on the final outcome of the steering group review.
- 3.3. The CCG will continue to extend the existing contract until the recommendations are implemented.

3.4. In the light of the benefits of this approach of co-design, the CCG intends to ask the steering group to also help develop the future of community services in and around Faversham. The CCG will also keep HOSC Members updated on developments.

ENDS