

Item 6: East Kent Outpatients Services: Consultation Update

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 June 2014

Subject: East Kent Outpatients Services: Consultation Update

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided on the East Kent Outpatients Consultation.

It provides additional background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

- (a) Representatives from East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust initially attended the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 June 2013 to discuss the Trust's developing clinical strategy.
- (b) The outpatients' strategy was one of the areas of particular focus during this meeting. The recommendation agreed by the Committee on 7 June 2013 was the following:
 - *AGREED that the Committee thanks its guests for their attendance and contributions today, agrees that the proposed changes to outpatient services and breast surgery services do represent a substantial variation of service and look forward to receiving further updates in the future; and also requests that East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust take on board the Committee's comments regarding public consultation before the Trust takes any final decision on wider consultation.*
- (c) On 11 October 2013 the Committee considered a written update provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group. At the conclusion of this item, the Committee agreed the following recommendation:
 - *AGREED that the Committee note the report, ask the NHS to take on board the comments and questions raised by the Committee and that a small group be formed to liaise with the NHS on the draft consultation document.*
- (d) Dr M Eddy, Mr R Latchford, OBE and Councillor Michael Lyons formed a working group to read and comment on the draft consultation document.

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- (e) On 11 April 2014 the Committee considered a further written update provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group. At the conclusion of this item, the Committee agreed the following recommendation:
- *RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Chairman to write to EKUHFT to clarify the concerns raised regarding the redeployment of non-clinical staff prior to the independent analysis of the consultation.*
- (f) Miss A Harrison was invited to observe the option re-appraisal for the North Kent Coastal site on 22 April. The re-appraisal was held following new information and comments received during the consultation and to incorporate additional information which had been requested by members of the public.
- (g) Dr M Eddy and Mr A Crowther visited Victoria Memorial Hospital in Deal on 29 April with representatives from NHS South Kent Coast CCG and Kent Community Health NHS Trust. The visit was arranged for Members to gain a better understanding of the nature of the site and the services currently provided as well as have the opportunity to hear about how commissioning plans for developing community and outpatient services on the East Kent Coast were developing.

2. Summary of the Consultation

- (a) Towards the end of 2010, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKUHFT) began work on developing their clinical strategy. Four work streams were established:
- Emergency care;
 - Trauma;
 - Outpatients; and
 - Planned care.
- (b) The consultation covered part of the outcomes of the work from the Out-Patient Clinical Strategy Group. The public consultation ran from 9 December 2013 to 17 March 2013 (extended from the original date of 9 March). The results of the consultation will be analysed independently by the University of Kent and then proceed for decision by the Boards of Canterbury and Coastal CCG and EKUHFT.
- (c) The core proposals within the consultation involve consolidating outpatient services from the current 15 sites to 6. 5 of these sites are those owned by EKUHFT:
1. William Harvey Hospital, Ashford;
 2. Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury;
 3. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate;

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4. Buckland Hospital, Dover; and
 5. Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.
- (d) The sixth site is to be in the north Kent coast area. Several sites are considered, with the consultation document naming Estuary View Medical Centre as the preferred option.
- (e) Based on travel times for patients in Canterbury and Coastal, Thanet, Ashford and South Kent Coast CCG's areas, choosing these six sites (including Estuary View) will lead to an increase in the percentage of patients within a 20 minute drive of outpatient services than is currently the case (83.5% compared to 70%).
- (f) NHS Canterbury and Coastal agreed to partner EKHFT on the consultation. Ashford, Thanet and South Kent Coast CCGs decided that they would be consulted by the Trust on the proposals.
- (g) A couple of other service developments are mentioned in the consultation document, but were not covered in the consultation. NHS South Kent Coast CCG is separately working on services to be provided from Deal Hospital. NHS Swale CCG is also separately commissioning a one-stop outpatient centre in the Sittingbourne area, creating a seventh site for outpatient services. According to the business case for the outpatients clinical strategy the seventh site, along with service innovations, is key to realising the benefits of the strategy.

3. Recommendation

Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on the report.

Background Documents

Agenda, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 June 2013

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=25151>

Agenda, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 October 2013

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5075&Ver=4>

Agenda, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 April 2014

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5396&Ver=4>

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Consultation on Outpatient Services in East Kent, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group.

Outpatients Clinical Strategy Full Business Case, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

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