

Item 6: North and West Kent: Dermatology Redesign

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 October 2014

Subject: North and West Kent: Dermatology Redesign

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, NHS Swale and NHS West Kent CCGs

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

1. Introduction

- (a) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, NHS Swale and NHS West Kent CCGs have asked for the attached report be presented to the Committee.
- (b) Dermatology is the study and treatment of skin, hair and nail diseases. There are over 1000 recognised dermatological conditions. The Royal College of Physicians estimates that about a quarter of the population in the UK are affected by a skin disease that would benefit from medical care (Royal College of Physicians 2014).
- (c) Dermatology is largely an outpatient-based specialty with most referrals coming from GPs. Community specialist nurses and pharmacists play a major role in the treatment of patients outside a hospital setting and can support the self-management of mild chronic inflammatory skin diseases such as eczema and psoriasis (Royal College of Physicians 2014).
- (d) Dermatologists also work closely with oncologists (doctors who specialise in the management of cancer), paediatricians (doctors who specialise in the medical care of infants, children and adolescents) and histopathologists (doctors who specialise in studying the changes caused by disease in human tissues) (Royal College of Physicians 2014).

2. Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- (a) It is for the Committee to determine if this service change constitutes a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals on 19 August 2014. They determined that the proposals did not constitute a substantial variation of service.

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- (c) Where the HOSC deems a proposed service change as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed change at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the relevant health commissioner or provider.
- (d) Where the HOSC determines a proposed change of service to be substantial, a timetable for consideration of the change will need to be agreed between the HOSC and CCGs after the meeting. The timetable shall include the proposed date that the CCGs intend to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal and the date by which the HOSC will provide any comments on the proposal.

3. Recommendation

If the proposed service change is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that guests be thanked for their attendance at the meeting, that they be requested to take note of the comments made by Members during the meeting and that they be invited to submit a report to the Committee in six months.

If the proposed service change is *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that the proposed service change constitutes a substantial variation of service, that guests be thanked for their attendance at the meeting, that they be requested to take note of the comments made by Members during the meeting and that they be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in three months.

Background Documents

Royal College of Physicians (2014) '*Dermatology (24/03/2014)*',
<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/specialty/dermatology>

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