

## **Background**

1. Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will recall that the Faversham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) service was put out to tender during 2013 by NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The outcome of the procurement process was unsuccessful as only one bid was received, and which was not acceptable financially. Without a new service provider the MIU was due to close at the end of the contract with the current provider on 31 March 2014.
2. The matter was discussed at length at the November 2013 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). Committee members raised concerns about the commissioning process and the impact of changes to the current specification including MIU X-ray. The CCG was asked to set aside the decision to close the service on 31 March 2014 to allow time for a new procurement exercise to be undertaken after taking advice and with full consultation with the people of Faversham and their democratically elected representatives.
3. The CCG accepted the request and arranged to keep the MIU open whilst a review was carried out to consider a number of aspects of the procurement and potential alternative service models.
4. To help support the review, the CCG established a local Steering Group comprising representatives from the local community, patients, The Friends of Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres, Faversham GPs, Faversham Town Council, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Healthwatch and the CCG.
5. On 4 June 2014 the CCG governing body considered a briefing paper, presented by two members of the public, from the steering group. The governing body supported the recommendation that the CCG should commence a new procurement process for an MIU service in Faversham. The contract would be for an initial three years, extendable to five by agreement, with regular reviews.
6. In the meantime the existing contract to allow time for the procurement process to be completed.

## **Progress**

Since the last update to the HOSC in July 2014 the CCG, supported by members of the stakeholder group, has:

- Developed a detailed service specification and agreed this with both the stakeholder group and the CCG governing body.
- Completed a range of assessments including:



- an assessment by NHS Property Services indicating that it might be possible to provide a static X-ray service from Faversham Health Centre.
  - an assessment by an independent radiographer, indicating that x-ray could be located on site, recommending the make and model of x-ray, IT infrastructure, personnel model and personnel requirement.
  - an electrical assessment to check that the current power supply to the hospital is sufficient for the x-ray machine and if not, the subsequent actions that would be required and costs.
  - a structural assessment to confirm that the rooms identified as possible locations for the general digital x-ray room on the Faversham Cottage Hospital/Health Centre site are suitable.
  - a detailed financial analysis of the proposed model, with scenario testing to identify a model that is most viable
- On the basis of these assessments, NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG has:
    - agreed a specification for procurement which will provide a revised service by end of June 2015
    - agreed a practical procurement approach with CCG and KCC procurement experts
    - issued an invitation for expressions of interest from interested providers to run the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) service at Faversham.

### **Next steps**

- The CCG received a positive response to the invitation and is now working with internal procurement teams to establish the next steps on the procurement timeline.
- A response has been sent to the interested providers with a proposed timeframe for the full procurement process.
- A market day will be held in the first week of February 2015. This will allow providers to ask any further questions required to support their bid. The market day panel will include contracts and procurement expertise, finance expertise, steering group representation and CCG representation.
- The CCG then expects to be able to award a contract in April 2015 so that the service can commence by the end of June 2015.

**ENDS**

