

## **Background**

1. Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will recall that the Faversham Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) service went through a tendering process during 2013 by NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The outcome of the procurement was unsuccessful when only one unacceptable financial bid was received. 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 which included 8am to 8pm 7 day a week x-ray making the service difficult to deliver financially. 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 while 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 comprised of 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. To maintain continuity of service, the CCG agreed to extend the existing contract to allow time for the procurement process to be completed.

## **Progress**

Since the last update to the HOSC in January 2015 the CCG, supported by members of the stakeholder group, have:

1. Developed a detailed service specification and agreed this with both the stakeholder group and the CCG governing body. The material difference in the specification, to enable the



service to be viable financially, being the reduction of x-ray opening hours from 8-8 7 days a week to 6 hours per day Mon – Fri and the inclusion of Direct Access GP X-Ray.

2. 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.

3. Agreed a practical procurement approach with the CCG and KCC procurement experts.

4. In January 2015, issued an invitation for expressions of interest from interested providers to deliver the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) service at Faversham. The CCG received a positive response to the invitation and worked with internal procurement teams to establish the next steps on the procurement timeline.

5. Sent a response to the interested providers with a proposed timeframe for the full procurement process. Held a market day in the first week of February 2015 allowing providers to ask further questions to support their bid. The market day panel included contracts and procurement expertise, finance expertise, steering group representation and CCG representation.

6. Ran a procurement between February and April 2015

## Conclusion

1. On 3rd June 2015 the CCG awarded a three-year contract with an option to extend by a further two years to Faversham Medical Practice to deliver the service, starting at the end of August.
2. The Minor Injuries Unit will be equipped to provide x-rays locally and this facility is expected to be available within six months of the August start date. The reason for the delay is to allow time for modifications need to be made to Faversham Cottage Hospital which will enable the x-ray machine to be installed. The x-ray facility will be for both injuries and for GPs to refer patients to, so that local people will not have to travel out of the town to have an x-ray.

