

Item 6: North and West Kent Neurorehabilitation Service (Written Briefing)

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 27 November 2015

Subject: North and West Kent Neurorehabilitation Service (Written Briefing)

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

It is a written briefing only and no guests will be present to speak on this item.

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

1. Introduction

- (a) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG and NHS West Kent CCG have asked for the attached reports to be presented to the Committee.
- (b) Neurological conditions result from damage to the brain, spinal column or peripheral nerves. Some neurological conditions are life-threatening with many severely affecting quality of life and causing lifelong disability. There are 4.7 million neurological cases in England. In 2012-13, £3.3 billion was spent on neurological services representing 3.5% of total NHS programme budget spending (National Audit Office 2015)
- (c) Rehabilitation is a process of assessment, treatment and management by which the individual (and their family / carers) are supported to achieve their maximum potential for physical, cognitive, social and psychological function, participation in society and quality of living. Patient goals for rehabilitation vary according to the recovery trajectory and stage of their condition (NHS England 2014).
- (d) Specialist rehabilitation is delivered by a multi-professional team who have undergone recognised specialist training in rehabilitation, led and supported by a consultant trained and accredited in rehabilitation medicine (NHS England 2014).
- (e) Following illness or injury, the majority of patients requiring rehabilitation will progress satisfactorily with the support of the local non-specialist rehabilitation services. Those with more complex needs may require referral to their local specialist rehabilitation services such as those described in the attached report; these services are commissioned by the CCGs. A small number of patients with highly complex needs may require the staff expertise and facilities of tertiary specialised rehabilitation service; these services are commissioned by NHS England (NHS England 2014).

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2. Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- (a) It is for the Committee to determine if the new service model constitutes a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Where the HOSC deems the new service model as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed change at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG and NHS West Kent CCG.
- (c) Where the HOSC determines the new service model as substantial, a timetable for consideration of the change will need to be agreed between the HOSC and the CCGs after the meeting. The timetable shall include the proposed date that the CCGs intends 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 new service model is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee does not deem the new service model for specialised neuro rehabilitation in North and West Kent to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG and NHS West Kent CCG be invited to submit a progress report on implementation to the Committee at its March meeting.

If the new service model is *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems the new service model for specialised neuro rehabilitation in North and West Kent to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG and NHS West Kent CCG be invited to submit a report to the Committee at its January meeting.

Background Documents

National Audit Office (2015) '*Services for people with neurological conditions: progress review (10/07/2015)*', <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Services-for-people-with-neurological-conditions-progress-review.pdf>

NHS England (2014) '*Specialist Rehabilitation for Patients with Highly Complex Needs (All Ages) (15/04/2014)*', <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/d02-rehab-pat-high-needs-0414.pdf>

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