Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. It provides additional background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

(a) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust has asked for the attached report to be presented to the Committee.

2. Health Education England

(a) Health Education England (HEE) is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and is responsible for promoting high quality training and education, undertaking national planning and leadership, allocating financial resources, monitoring outcomes and securing the required supply of qualified staff (Department of Health 2013).

(b) At a local level, education and training is co-ordinated by 13 local education and training boards (LETBs) including Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex. The LETBs are statutory committees of HEE and act as the bodies for all providers and professionals to work collectively to improve the quality of education and training outcomes within their local area – in order to meet the needs of patients, the public and service providers. Each LETB covers a geographical area and develops comprehensive plans, considering existing workforce data, what healthcare services will be needed in the future and the demographic of the local population. HEE allocates funding for LETBs to spend on the education and training required in their local area and provides support to LETBs (Department of Health 2013).

(c) Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex (HEKSS) is responsible for a population of 4,000,000 (Health Education England 2015). As part of its quality management process, HEKSS undertakes visits to Local Education Providers (LEPs) to assess the quality of education and training in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The objectives of LEP visits are to (Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex 2015):

- Ensure that General Medical Council (GMC) standards for the delivery of postgraduate medical education are being met;
- Investigate any matters of concern against the GMC standards
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- Improve the quality of education and training by identifying issues and ensuring they are rectified;
- Identify areas of notable practice across the specialties

(d) A programme of routine visits is planned annually. KEKSS also undertake exception visits, which are held at short notice in order to explore specific, serious issues. Follow-up visits are undertaken when there is a specific need to follow up on issues raised in previous visits, to ensure issues are being addressed. All HEKSS visits include trainee representatives and lay representatives on the visiting teams. Exception visits always include external representation, and will also include representation from the GMC where necessary (Health Education Kent, Surrey & Sussex 2015).

3. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that:

(a) the report be noted;

(b) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and East Kent CCGs be requested to keep the Committee updated as a new model of care is developed.

Background Documents


Contact Details

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