

## **HOSC Briefing September 2017: West Kent CCG Dermatology Services**

### **Background**

An update was submitted to Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) in September 2016 to advise that NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (WK CCG) had awarded the contract for West Kent Dermatology Service to Sussex Community Dermatology Service (SCDS) as lead provider.

Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (QVH) is subcontracted by SCDS to help deliver some of the cancer pathways through joint working in community locations.

### **Care for people with skin conditions**

People with skin conditions should have their care managed at a level appropriate to the severity and complexity of their condition, acknowledging that this may vary over time.

The principles of care are therefore described in relation to the level of care required:

- Patient Self-Management (Level 1)
- Primary Care (Level 2)
- West Kent Dermatology Service (Level 3)
- West Kent Dermatology Service (Level 4)

People with skin conditions who manage their conditions themselves (Level 1 care) should be supported with high-quality patient information.

People with skin conditions needing Primary Care (Level 2) support are managed initially through self-referral to their GP. Any patient whose skin condition cannot be managed by a generalist will need to be referred for specialist care (Level 3) and/or supra-specialist services (Level 4).

### **Mobilisation of West Kent Dermatology Service**

West Kent Dermatology Service commenced in April 2017, and prior to this, from January 17, in Sevenoaks to provide dermatology services for Sevenoaks residents who had previously received dermatology services from King's College Hospital.

Dermatology services were previously provided by Medway Foundation Trust (MFT), Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, and by GPs with Special Interest (GPSI).

The mobilisation phase was overseen by the Dermatology Project Board, made up of representatives from the provider, the CCG, and patient representative. Patients were transferred in a phased approach, and were given the choice to remain with MFT if they wished (very few opted for this).

The full clinical team consists of eleven Consultant Dermatologists, four Consultant Plastic Surgeons, one Maxillofacial & Oral Surgeon and one Associate Specialist. There is also an additional four GPs with Specialist Interest in Dermatology (GPSI), nine Dermatology Surgical Practitioners and two Trainee GPSIs.

West Kent Dermatology Service provides clinics in 14 locations across the West Kent CCG area.

West Kent Dermatology Service provides a full skin cancer service, including two week rules and treatment for all grades of skin cancer. The service is provided jointly by SCDS clinicians and QVH clinicians working alongside each other.

West Kent Dermatology Service provides post-graduate education events for all interested GPs within the West Kent region. The meetings are aimed to provide local GPs with a forum for learning and discussion relating to dermatology. It is also aimed to increase the quality of the referrals received.

## **Quarter 1 Review**

The CCG reviewed the performance of West Kent Dermatology at the end of Quarter 1.

### **Performance:**

- 100 per cent compliance with 31-day and 62-day cancer waits
- Waiting list inherited from MFT has been completely cleared (approximately 2000 patients transferred)
- Six week wait for a first appointment (significantly shorter wait than previous provider)

### **Activity:**

- Activity in Q1 is significantly higher than plan
- The CCG is reviewing whether this activity is “new”, or whether it is due to patients now being referred to West Kent Dermatology Service who would previously have been referred to out of area providers due to the long waiting time of the previous service.

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