

Item 6: West Kent CCG: Out of Hours (OOH) GP Relocation

By: John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 20 September 2017

Subject: West Kent CCG: Out of Hours (OOH) GP Relocation

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

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

1. Introduction

(a) On 10 October 2014 the Committee considered a report and service specification regarding the reprocurement of out-of-hours service, an enhanced rapid response service, and GPs working in A&E to see and treat primary care type patients into a combined contract. The Committee agreed the following recommendation:

▪ *RESOLVED that:*

(a) *The Committee do not deem this change to be substantial.*

(b) *The guests be thanked for their attendance at the meeting, that they be requested to take note of the comments made by Members during the meeting and that they be invited to submit a report to the Committee in six months.*

(b) The 2014 service specification stated that the “service must provide out-of-hours primary care medical services; based at primary care medical assessment units, co-located within the two A&E units in West Kent”.

(b) NHS West Kent CCG has asked for the attached report to be presented to the Committee. The CCG is proposing to:

- relocate GPs who currently see patients out of hours at Tonbridge Cottage Hospital and Cranbrook to be a co-located primary care service working within the Emergency Department at Tunbridge Wells Hospital.
- review the Sevenoaks OOH activity following a pause after the relocation of Tonbridge Cottage Hospital and Cranbrook. The CCG is proposing to re-locate the Sevenoaks OOH base by March 2019.
- retain the roving OOH GP car to visit patients at home who are unable to travel in Cranbrook, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge areas.

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2. Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- (a) It is for the Committee to determine if it agrees with the Committee's original decision, regarding the co-location of out-of-hours services within an emergency department, that it is not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) Where the HOSC deems the proposal as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed change at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the CCG.
- (c) Where the HOSC determines the proposed changes to be substantial, a timetable for consideration of the change will need to be agreed between the HOSC and CCG after the meeting. The timetable shall include the proposed date that the CCG 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 Committee **agrees** with its original decision that the co-location of out-of-hours services within an emergency department, is *not substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee agrees with its original decision that the co-location of out-of-hours services within an emergency department is not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) West Kent CCG be invited to submit a report to the Committee in six months including an update about the relocation of the Sevenoaks OOH base

If the Committee **disagrees** with its original decision and deems the co-location of out-of-hours services within an emergency department to be *substantial*:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems the co-location of out-of-hours services within an emergency department to be a substantial variation of service.
- (b) West Kent CCG be invited to submit a report to the Committee at its November meeting.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2014) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/10/2014)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5400&Ver=4>

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