

Item 9: General Surgery Reconfiguration at MTW

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 January 2020

Subject: General Surgery Reconfiguration at Maidstone and Tunbridge Well NHS Trust

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

1) Introduction

- a) According to The Royal College of Surgeons, General Surgeons “have a wide range of knowledge and skills to deal with all kinds of surgical emergencies, with an emphasis on acute abdominal problems.” They also carry out a large number of elective operations and are essential in supporting A&E departments.¹
- b) This item is included on today’s agenda at the request of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW). It relates to a reconfiguration of services across their two sites of Pembury and Maidstone.
- c) NHS commissioners and providers are required to consult with the HOSC on potential substantial variations of services affecting the population of the area covered by the Committee.

2) Potential Substantial Variation of Service

- a) The Committee is asked to consider whether MTW’s proposals relating to the reconfiguration of general surgery constitute a substantial variation of service.
- b) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent the HOSC from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.

¹ Royal College of Surgeons, <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/news-and-events/media-centre/media-background-briefings-and-statistics/general-surgery/>

3) Recommendation

If the proposals relating to the reconfiguration of general surgery are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to the configuration of general surgery services across the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust sites are a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

If the proposals relating to the reconfiguration of general surgery are deemed not substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to the configuration of general surgery services across the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust sites are not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

No documents

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