

Item 6: Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular Services Review

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer to the Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 February 2020

Subject: Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular Services Review

Summary: This report invites the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS England South East.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

- (a) Vascular services manage the treatment and care of patients with vascular disease relating to disorders of the arteries, veins and lymphatic system. The diseases can be managed by medical therapy, minimally invasive catheter procedures and surgical reconstruction.

2. Background

- (a) An NHS review commenced in 2014 because both East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) and Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) were failing to deliver against either the national specification for specialist vascular services or the guidelines from the Vascular Society.
- (b) The catchment area for the Vascular Services review is East Kent and Medway, which has a combined population of approximately 800,000. Those services currently provided in North and West Kent are not included in the review.
- (c) The case for change was agreed in 2016 and a review process identified a clinical “hub and spoke model” (i.e. a single inpatient hub in Kent & Medway supported by a number of spokes across the region).
- (d) The broad clinical agreement was that in the long term, an arterial centre (the inpatient hub) should be located in East Kent (subject to consultation). The exact location in East Kent will be determined by the outcome of the East Kent Transformation Programme which is still ongoing. There is therefore a need for an interim solution.
- (e) The proposed interim solution is for a single arterial centre to be housed on the Kent and Canterbury Hospital site, with a non-arterial centre on the Medway Maritime Hospital site.

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3. Joint Scrutiny

- (a) Regulation 23 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires relevant NHS bodies and health service providers to consult a local authority about any proposal which they have under consideration for a substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority's area. This obligation requires notification and publication of the date on which it is proposed to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal and the date by which Overview and Scrutiny may comment.
- (b) The Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) considered the Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular Services Review on 11 August 2015. They determined that the reconfiguration constituted a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Medway.
- (c) The Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) considered the item on 17 July and 9 October 2015. The Committee also deemed the changes to be a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Kent.
- (d) In line with Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013¹ the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) was convened and has met to discuss vascular services on 6 occasions since January 2016. The JHOSC may:
- make comments on the proposal;
 - require the provision of information about the proposal;
 - require the relevant NHS bodies and health service providers to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.
- (e) The legislation makes provision for local authorities to report a contested substantial health service development or variation to the Secretary of State. This only applies in certain circumstances and the local authority and relevant health body must take reasonable steps to resolve any disagreement in relation to the proposals.
- (f) The JHOSC may consider whether the Vascular Services reconfiguration should be referred to the Secretary of State under regulation 23(9) of the 2013 Regulations. The Committee must recommend a course of action to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

¹ When NHS bodies and health services consult more than one local authority on a proposal which they have under consideration for a substantial development of or variation in the provision of health services in the local authorities' areas, those local authorities must appoint a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for the purposes of the consultation.

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(g) The JHOSC cannot itself refer a decision to the Secretary of State. This responsibility lies with the Kent County Council HOSC and/or the Medway Council HASC.

(h) The JHOSC most recently considered the Vascular Services reconfiguration at its meeting on 12 October 2018 and 10 September 2019. At the 10 September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed the following:

RESOLVED that:

(a) the Committee has considered the report and that it be noted, and

(b) that the NHS be invited to return to the Committee at a time to be determined with the information requested.

(i) With reference to the second part of the recommendation above, the draft Minutes contain the following:

Several requests were made regarding information to be provided to the Committee for its next meeting: a written report on any engagement/consultation activities, including a geographic breakdown of this activity; more information on renal and interventional radiology services; data on where patients came from as well as where they were treated, and what numbers of patients came from areas of deprivation; more information on the timetable for change; and information on prevention.

4. Legal Implications

(a) The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 govern the local authority health scrutiny function. The provisions in the regulations relating to proposals for substantial health service developments or variations are set out in the body of this report.

5. Financial Implications

(a) There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

The JHOSC is invited to:

- NOTE and COMMENT on the report.

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Background Documents

Kent County Council (2015) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (17/07/2015)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5841&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2015) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/09/2015)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=32939>

Medway Council (2015) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/08/2015)*', <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3255&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (08/01/2016)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=6314&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (29/04/2016)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=6357&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/08/2016)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=7405&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (28/11/2016)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=42591>

Kent County Council (2017) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12/12/2017)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=46700>

Kent County Council (2018) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12/10/2018)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8154&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/09/2019)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8413&Ver=4>

Contact Details

Kay Goldsmith
Scrutiny Research Officer
kay.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk
03000 416512