

East Kent Hospitals Update for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Orthopaedic Pilot

1. Background

- 1.1 East Kent Hospitals is taking part in a national GIRFT (Getting it Right First Time) pilot to improve the experience and outcomes for patients undergoing planned orthopaedic inpatient operations and those suffering a trauma as a result of a fall or accident.
- 1.2 National standards are moving to physically separating emergency and planned operations into different hospitals to protect planned operations from cancellations when there are surges in emergency admissions. Where these changes have already taken place in other parts of the country, waiting times have reduced, fewer patients have had their operations cancelled and recovery times are quicker.

2 Stage 1: Treating more patients sooner

- 2.1 Participating in this pilot has enabled the Trust to improve services for patients by carrying out more planned orthopaedic inpatient operations, continue operating throughout the winter and improve capacity to treat trauma patients.
- 2.2 Since November 2018, patients previously treated at William Harvey Hospital (WHH) have had their planned hip and knee operations in dedicated facilities at Kent and Canterbury Hospital (K&C). As a result:
 - Over 2000 patients have their planned lower limb operations sooner
 - The number of patients waiting for these operations has reduced by more than a third.
 - Waiting times have reduced by nearly nine weeks for knee replacements and three weeks for hip replacements.
- 2.3 The pilot has also benefited patients at WHH by freeing up operating theatres and beds to treat other patients more quickly. As a result:
 - almost 2,000 more patients had their trauma, gynaecology and general surgical operations sooner
 - an extra ward has been released for patients with medical emergencies.

3. Stage 2: New operating theatres at Kent and Canterbury Hospital

- 3.1 The Trust has successfully secured almost £15 million new capital investment from the NHS nationally to build four new operating theatres and 24 more dedicated beds at K&C to extend these benefits to more patients.
- 3.2 Building work starts in July 2020 so that by Spring 2021 all patients needing planned orthopaedic inpatient operations in east Kent will be treated in new and improved facilities at the hospital.
- 3.3 The new investment will extend improvements to more orthopaedic patients and bring significant benefits for patients at QEQM Hospital by freeing up operating theatres and beds to treat more patients needing cancer surgery and trauma operations sooner.

- 3.4 It will also help the Trust develop plans to improve care for frail patients and treat patients with medical emergencies sooner at both QEQM and WHH hospitals.
- 3.5 Patients will continue to have day operations and care before and after their inpatient orthopaedic operation at their local hospital, including tests and scans, pre-op and follow up appointments. Emergency (trauma) patients will continue to be treated at William Harvey and QEQM hospitals as now, for example, for fractures sustained in a fall.

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