

## Item 7: Dermatology Services in North Kent

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 22 July 2020

Subject: Dermatology Services in North Kent

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

It provides background information that may be useful to Members.

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### 1. Introduction

- a) Dermatologists are specialist physicians who diagnose and treat diseases of the skin, hair and nails.<sup>1</sup>
- b) DMC Healthcare was awarded the contract to deliver this service to residents of Medway, Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and Swale from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### 2. Previous monitoring by the Kent HOSC

- a) HOSC last received a performance update on Dermatology Services in North Kent under DMC Healthcare on 16 December 2019. During the meeting, the Deputy Managing Director at Medway CCG highlighted 4 key points:
  - i. DMC Healthcare took over the running of Dermatology Services from Medway Foundation Trust (MFT) in April 2019. The previous service had been failing and needed significant work put into it.
  - ii. The initial backlog focus had been on cancer services and cancer patients, and this appeared to have been sorted.
  - iii. The second focus was on dealing with the backlog transferred from MFT, which had also been rectified.
  - iv. The final focus was on the waiting times being experienced by current patients which the CCG recognised were too high.
- b) Healthwatch Kent had been involved with monitoring performance, and they were expecting to commence a piece of work to evaluate the Service around March 2020.
- c) At the end of the discussion, HOSC Members made the following recommendation:

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<sup>1</sup> British Association of Dermatologists, What is a dermatologist? [www.bad.org.uk](http://www.bad.org.uk)

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*RESOLVED that the report be noted, and Medway CCG return to HOSC after summer 2020 with an update on performance, accompanied by the service evaluation by Healthwatch Kent and Healthwatch Medway.*

- d) On 23 June 2020, the Chair of HOSC received notification that the CCG had suspended the contract with DMC Healthcare following new data which indicated there were risks with continuing with it.
- e) The CCG has prepared the attached report, which HOSC are invited to debate.

### **3. Recommendation**

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report and the Kent and Medway CCG be invited to update HOSC at the appropriate time.

### **Background Documents**

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (25/01/19)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7924&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (06/06/19)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8281&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23/07/19)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8282&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (16/12/19)',  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8483&Ver=4>

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