

Item 12: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust – written update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 22 July 2020

Subject: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (written update)

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT).

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

It is a written briefing only and no guests will be present to speak on this item.

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## **1) Introduction**

- a) EKHUFT is currently subject to increased scrutiny following the performance of its Maternity Services.
- b) In January 2020, a coroner ruled that the death of baby Harry Richford in the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital (QEQM) in November 2017 was “wholly avoidable”. Since then, several families have raised concerns in relation to the care given by the Trust’s maternity services.

## **2) Previous visits to HOSC**

- a) On 5 March 2020, EKHUFT attended HOSC to update Members on their action plan for improving maternity services in East Kent.
- b) Following discussion, the Chair summarised the three key pieces of work that HOSC would want to receive further updates on, as well as expected timescales:
  - i. Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) which looks into certain categories of incidents in maternity units across the country. The Trust receives quarterly reports and meets with HSIB to review the findings and themes.
  - ii. NHS England independent review led by Dr Bill Kirkup. The timescales were unclear at that point in time.
  - iii. The Trust’s sub-committee with its seven workstreams. The Trust’s Chief Executive had set an expectation that initial conclusions would be available by the end of April.

Item 12: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust  
– written update

c) Members agreed the following:

*RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Trust be requested to provide an update at the appropriate time.*

### 3) Latest Developments

- a) Following a CQC inspection in January and February 2020, the Trust's maternity services have been rated "Requires Improvement". Services are rated Good for being effective, caring and responsive to people's needs and Requires Improvement for being safe and well-led.<sup>1</sup>
- b) Following the announcement of the CQC rating on 28 May 2020, EKHUFT held a confidential briefing for HOSC Members on 2 June.
- c) Today's written update will be followed in due course with Trust representatives attending HOSC to discuss developments in the three key pieces of work (paragraph 2b).

### 4. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report, and that the Trust be requested to provide an update at the appropriate time.

### Background Documents

Kent County Council (2020) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (05/03/20)', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8286&Ver=4>

Care Quality Commission, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Overview and CQC inspection ratings, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RVV>

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<sup>1</sup> CQC (2020) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust maternity services rated Requires Improvement, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/east-kent-hospitals-university-nhs-foundation-trust-maternity-services-rated-requires>