

Item 7: Acute Stroke Services Update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 September 2020

Subject: Acute Stroke Services Update

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 which may prove useful to Members.

1) Introduction

- a) The Kent and Medway CCG has been invited to attend HOSC and present an update on the temporary closure of two stroke wards in the county.
- b) In September 2019, the stroke service on Ward 22 at Tunbridge Wells Hospital (TWH) was moved to the Chaucer ward on the Maidstone Hospital (MH) site. The move was a temporary and urgent response to unsafe staff numbers (both thrombolysis nurses and registered ward staff) at the hospital, despite attempts to recruit.
- c) In June 2020, HOSC members were notified by the Kent and Medway CCG that emergency temporary changes were also being made at Medway Foundation Trust's stroke services due to insufficient staffing levels. Suspected stroke patients would be taken to MH or Darent Valley Hospital (DVH) – depending on which site was closest.
- d) Recruitment of specialist nurses in the county has been challenging due to the uncertainty around the outcome of the Kent and Medway Stroke Services Review. A decision is outstanding by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care following a referral.
- e) The regulations allow health professionals to make decisions without consulting HOSC where they determine that a decision has to be taken “without allowing time for consultation because of a risk to the safety or welfare of patients or staff”.¹

2. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

¹ The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, Section 23, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/218/regulation/23/made?view=plain>

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Background Documents

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>

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