

Item 8: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17 September 2020

Subject: Maternity Services at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

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.

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) Background

- a) EKHUFT attended HOSC on 5 March 2020 to discuss their action plan for improving the Trust’s maternity services. The Chair summarised the three key pieces of work that the Committee would want to receive further updates on.
- b) These three key areas were:
 - 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 Terms of Reference for the investigation have not yet been published.
 - iii. A sub-committee of the Trust (referred to as the “Learning and Review Committee”) chaired by Mr Des Holden. The final report was presented to the Trust’s Board in July. As a result, an integrated action plan has been commissioned to address the outstanding areas of work (referred to as the single Integrated Improvement Programme for maternity).
- c) A recent CQC inspection has rated the Trust’s maternity services as “Requires Improvement”. Services are rated Good for being effective, caring

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and responsive to people's needs and Requires Improvement for being safe and well-led.¹

- d) EKHUFT provided a written update to HOSC on 22 July 2020, setting out what action had been taken to date, particularly in response to the CQC report.
- e) Following discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted, that the issue be added to the committee's September agenda and that Trust be asked/pressed to attend to answer the committee's questions.

- f) The Trust has provided the attached report and will be present during the meeting to answer any arising questions.

3) 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>

Kent County Council (2020) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (22/07/20)', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8496&Ver=4>

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

Independent Investigation into East Kent Maternity Services, <https://iiekms.org.uk/about-the-investigation/>

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¹ 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>