

Item 7: Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital, Canterbury

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer to the Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 28 September 2020

Subject: Provision of Mental Health Services - St Martin's Hospital (west), Canterbury

Summary: This report invites the Kent and Medway NHS Joint 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) Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) and the Kent and Medway CCG are working together to improve mental health services across Kent and Medway. The mental health unit at St Martin's (west site) in Canterbury is part of this review.
- (b) St Martin's Hospital (east) houses the Heather Ward (formerly named Samphire Ward). The west site housed the Cranmer ward, but this facility has been shut due its unsuitability. The site has been sold to Homes England, with money from its sale being invested in local mental health services.
- (c) The plans for St Martin's fall under KMPT's Clinical Care Pathways Programme. Best practice and national policy in mental health care advocates caring for people as close to home as possible and reducing reliance on hospital admission unless it is clinically necessary.¹
- (d) A key part of this review is ensuring there are the right number of mental health inpatient beds available to meet the needs of local people both now and in the future.² Inpatient beds for those suffering from dementia are not part of this review.

2. Recent Scrutiny

- (a) The Kent and Medway JHOSC received an update from the NHS on 6 February 2020. At that time, KMPT and the CCG had commissioned independent bed modelling to help inform their decision on the number of inpatient beds required. The outcome of that work was expected later that month.

¹ Kent & Medway CCG (2020) Transforming mental health care services in Kent and Medway – proposed changes at St Martins site (west) in Canterbury,

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s95759/JHOSC%20update%20Jan%202020%20FINAL.pdf>

² ibid

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- (b) The Cranmer Ward had been temporarily shut at that time, with patients moving to the Heather Ward. The closure had resulted in a temporary reduction in mental health beds, "though so far that had not had any negative impact on the provision of services".³
- (c) The Committee was told about alternative provision, such as Safe Havens and Crisis home teams.
- (d) At the end of the discussion, the Committee resolved to note the report.

3. Joint Scrutiny

- (a) Regulation 23 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires relevant NHS bodies and health service providers to consult a local authority about any proposal which they have under consideration for a substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority's area. This obligation requires notification and publication of the date on which it is proposed to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal and the date by which Overview and Scrutiny may comment.
- (b) The Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) considered the proposals relating to the St. Martin's Hospital site on 20 August 2019. They determined that the reconfiguration constituted a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Medway.
- (c) The Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) considered the item on 1 March and 23 July 2019. The Committee also deemed the changes to be a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Kent.
- (d) In line with Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013⁴ the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) may:
 - make comments on the proposal;
 - require the provision of information about the proposal;
 - require the relevant NHS bodies and health service providers to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.
- (e) The legislation makes provision for local authorities to report a contested substantial health service development or variation to the Secretary of State. This only applies in certain circumstances and the local authority and relevant health body must take reasonable steps to resolve any disagreement in relation to the proposals.

³ Kent County Council (2020) 'Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee (06/02/20)', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=757&Mid=8624&Ver=4>

⁴ When NHS bodies and health services consult more than one local authority on a proposal which they have under consideration for a substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in the local authorities' areas, those local authorities must appoint a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for the purposes of the consultation.

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- (f) The JHOSC may consider whether the reconfiguration should be referred to the Secretary of State under regulation 23(9) of the 2013 Regulations. The Committee must recommend a course of action to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- (g) The JHOSC cannot itself refer a decision to the Secretary of State. This responsibility lies with the Kent County Council HOSC and/or the Medway Council HASC.

4. Legal Implications

- (a) The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 govern the local authority health scrutiny function. The provisions in the regulations relating to proposals for substantial health service developments or variations are set out in the body of this report.

5. Financial Implications

- (a) There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

That the JHOSC consider and note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2019) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (01/03/19)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7926&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>

Medway Council (2019) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (20/08/2019)*',
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=4522&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Kent and Medway Joint NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee (06/02/20)*',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8624&Ver=4>

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