

Item 10: East Kent Transformation

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 26 January 2022

Subject: East Kent Transformation Programme (written update)

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

This is a written update only and no NHS representatives will be present at the meeting.

1) Introduction

- a) The NHS in east Kent has been developing plans to improve the way services are delivered at the three major hospitals in the area, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate, and the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.¹
- b) This programme of work has been under consideration for many years. In November 2017 the NHS announced a 'medium list' of two potential options and has been working since then on developing these options.² The shortlist of options was announced on 16 January 2020.³ The two options are:
 - i) Two site emergency department model with William Harvey Hospital as the Major Emergency Centre
 - ii) One site emergency department model with Kent and Canterbury Hospital as the Major Emergency Centre

2) Substantial Variation of Service

- a) Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) considered the proposals relating to Transforming Health and Care in East Kent on 16 October 2018. They determined that the reconfiguration constituted a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Medway.
- b) The Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) most recently considered the item on 21 September 2018. The Committee has also deemed the changes to be a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Kent.
- c) In light of the above, and in line with Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny)

¹ <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/current-engagement-projects/east-kent-hospitals>

² <https://www.ekhft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/about-us/delivering-our-future/>

³ <https://kentandmedway.nhs.uk/latest-news/nhs-leaders-in-east-kent-confirm-shortlist-for-hospital-improvements/>

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Regulations 2013, formal scrutiny of the East Kent Transformation lies with the Kent and Medway Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC).

- d) The JHOSC will consider whether the reconfiguration should be referred to the Secretary of State under regulation 23(9) of the 2013 Regulations. The JHOSC must recommend a course of action to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. **The JHOSC cannot itself refer a decision to the Secretary of State.** This responsibility lies with the Kent County Council HOSC and the Medway Council HASC separately, once the JHOSC has concluded its work.

3) The role of the Kent HOSC

- a) Due to the significant impact that the proposed changes in East Kent may have on Kent residents, it has been decided that updates will be provided to HOSC on a periodic basis to keep members informed on the programme.
- b) The Kent and Medway JHOSC met on 2 December 2021. The update report that was provided at that meeting is attached to this paper. Members of HOSC are asked to note the contents of the report but are unable to make any further comment until such time that the Kent and Medway JHOSC makes a recommendation to the Committee.

4. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2018) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (21/09/2018)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7921&Ver=4>

Medway Council (2018) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (16/10/2018)*', <https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=19800>

Kent County Council (2021) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (2/12/2021)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8940&Ver=4>

Kent and Medway CCG, Current engagement projects – East Kent hospitals, <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/current-engagement-projects/east-kent-hospitals>

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