

Item 5: Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular Services Review

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

To: Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 26 April 2022

Subject: Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular Services Review

Summary: This report invites the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS England & NHS Improvement Specialised Commissioning South East.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

- (a) Vascular services manage the treatment and care of patients with vascular disease relating to disorders of the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system. The diseases can be managed by medical therapy, minimally invasive catheter procedures and surgical reconstruction.

2. Background

- (a) In 2014, an NHS review commenced into the Vascular Services serving the East Kent and Medway populations. The services provided in North and West Kent are not included in the review.
- (b) The case for change was agreed in 2016 and a review process identified a clinical “hub and spoke model” (i.e., a single inpatient hub in Kent & Medway supported by a number of spokes across the region).
- (c) The broad clinical agreement was that in the long term, an arterial centre (the inpatient hub) should be located in East Kent (subject to consultation). The exact location in East Kent will be determined by the outcome of the East Kent Transformation Programme which is still ongoing. There is therefore a need for an interim solution.
- (d) The proposed interim solution is for a single arterial centre to be housed on the Kent and Canterbury Hospital site, with a non-arterial centre on the Medway Maritime Hospital site.
- (e) At their meeting in February 2020, JHOSC were informed how pre-engagement events that had taken place during 2019 had seen a low attendance rate. Further engagement/ consultation was planned and NHSE would seek to involve relevant third sector organisations.

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- (f) Also, in February 2020, the Committee were notified that there had been an emergency move of the Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Repair (AAA) service from Medway Maritime Hospital to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. This was required following staff shortages in December at the Medway site which led to concerns over patient safety. Patients would still receive their assessment at Medway Maritime Hospital, it would only impact AAA intervention and emergency surgery.
- (g) The Committee received its last formal, written update on 17 March 2021. At that time, it was expected that a consultation would be held in April/ May 2021 followed by implementation in Autumn 2021 (at the earliest). The update was noted.
- (h) In June 2021, JHOSC members were notified via email that the proposal was going through the NHS England/ Improvement Stage 2 assurance process which would see the Pre-Consultation Business Case (PCBC) signed off prior to public consultation. In October 2021, a further email update confirmed that NHSE/I had requested further work as a result of the Stage 2 assurance process and an assurance panel date had been set for 1 November 2021. This resulted in a revision to the timetable for both consultation and implementation.
- (i) Additional information was provided to JHOSC members and views were put forward about the proposed consultation process. Later in December members were further informed that NHSE/I had given permission for the consultation to proceed but that the start was to be delayed by two weeks to 24 January 2022.
- (j) NHS England & NHSE Improvement Specialised Commissioning South East have asked to attend today's meeting to provide an update.

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 Kent and Medway Specialist Vascular

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Services Review on 11 August 2015. 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 17 July and 9 October 2015. The Committee also deemed the changes to be a substantial variation in the provision of health services in Kent.
- (d) As both health scrutiny committees declared the proposals to be a substantial variation, formal scrutiny passed to a joint committee. In line with Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) may:
 - i. make comments on the proposal;
 - ii. require the provision of information about the proposal;
 - iii. 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 refer a substantial variation of service to the Secretary of State in certain circumstances. The JHOSC cannot itself refer a decision to the Secretary of State but may recommend a course of action to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4. Recommendation

The JHOSC is invited to note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2015) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (17/07/2015)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5841&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2015) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/09/2015)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=32939>

Medway Council (2015) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/08/2015)*', <http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3255&Ver=4>

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Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (08/01/2016)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=6314&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (29/04/2016)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=6357&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/08/2016)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=7405&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (28/11/2016)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=42591>

Kent County Council (2017) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12/12/2017)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=46700>

Kent County Council (2018) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12/10/2018)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8154&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/09/2019)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8413&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/02/2020)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8624&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2021) '*Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (17/03/2021)*',

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=757&MId=8769&Ver=4>

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