

By: Justin Chisnall, Director of Patient Pathways, NHS Kent and Medway
To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 19 July 2023
Subject: NHS Kent and Medway Community Services review and reprocurement

Summary:

This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board.

1. Introduction

- a) The Community Contracts held by NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board expire at the end of March 2024 and need to be reprocured. As part of this process NHS Kent and Medway are further developing the model of care for the provision of Community Services in collaboration with Health and Care system partners
- b) The aim of this work is to ensure high quality sustainable services in Kent and Medway which meet the changing needs of our population and support the wider health and social care system.
- c) NHS Kent and Medway have been invited to attend today's meeting to provide an update on the planned procurement and service development process.

2. Background

- a) There have been major changes in community models of care over the last 10 years, reflecting the changes in needs of patients, increasing care in the home out of hospital, and advances in technology and clinical delivery.
- b) In order to ensure quality and sustainable patient care in the future it is essential that services in Kent and Medway reflect best practice and are prepared for the changing demands of our population, with increased emphasis on services to support ageing well, and enabling care outside of a hospital setting.
- c) The future model of care must enable integration between services, with NHS providers, social care and voluntary sector organisations collaborating to deliver joined up support to the population of Kent and Medway.
- d) In February 2023, the ICB Board approved the extension of community contracts to the end of March 2024 to allow for a single process across Kent and Medway to secure future arrangements.

3. Approach

- a) In order to secure continuity of contracts for community services from the 1st April 2024, a tender process will be undertaken in the Autumn of 2023 to allow contract award for the 1st April 2024. The services procured will reflect the current services in terms of levels of service, access (waiting times and referral routes) and location. No identifiable service change will occur at this point.
- b) Recognising the need for Community services to develop a sustainable model to support the growing future demands of the population, a transformation programme will be agreed with the providers and local systems from April 2024 onwards, with public consultation as appropriate for any substantial variations.
- c) The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (and its Medway counterpart) will be regularly updated on the planning and delivery of all developments.
- d) A communications and engagement plan is currently being drafted, and the first stakeholder engagement session was held on the 11th May 2023. Further sessions are planned with provider partners, the voluntary sector, Primary Care and the public.

Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report and consider whether the proposals constitute a substantial variation of service.