

## Item 10: Reconfiguration of Acute Stroke Services

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 5 October 2023

Subject: Reconfiguration of Acute Stroke Services

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

It is a written briefing only and no guests will be present to speak on this item.

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### 1) Introduction

- a) The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board is establishing three Hyper Acute Stroke Services (HASUs) to serve Kent and Medway. These will be located in Maidstone, Ashford and Dartford.
- b) The implementation follows a long period of planning, consultation, and challenges. A summary timeline was set out in a paper to HOSC in [January 2022](#).
- c) HOSC received updates on implementation of the HASUs on 26 January 2022 and 30 November 2022. Updates included:
  - i) Three travel advisory groups were to be re-established, which would listen to the concerns of patients and families and put strategies in place to address these concerns.
  - ii) Within six months of HASUs being operational, the expectation was that each of the three units would be A rated (this would be evident after 9 months due to a 3-month lag in data, so December 2023).
  - iii) The use of telemedicine had reduced the number of non-stroke patients being sent to a stroke unit which had resulted in improved patient flow.
  - iv) Activity and bed modelling had been completed in 2017, and those assumptions were being reviewed to ensure they were still robust ahead of the business cases being finalised.
  - v) It had not been possible to provide data on call to needle times because the data had not been provided by the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP).
  - vi) During the covid pandemic, stroke services in east Kent relocated to Kent and Canterbury Hospital (KCH) to free up acute capacity for Covid-19 patients. KCH does not have an A&E department, and therefore it was not expected that the services would remain on that site because SSNAP audit data evidenced improved outcomes when a HASU was co-located with an A&E. The expected dependencies were being looked at by a national team.

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- d) NHS Kent and Medway have prepared the attached briefing for the Committee. They will attend the meeting in December with further information.

### **2) Recommendation**

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report and that the ICB be invited to return with a fuller update at the next meeting.

### **Background Documents**

Kent County Council (2022) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26/01/2022),  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8761&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2022) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (30/11/2022),  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9048&Ver=4>

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