

Reconfiguration of acute stroke services in Kent and Medway

Purpose of briefing

Kent Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has requested an update on the time on the transformation of acute stroke services in Kent and Medway. A detailed briefing on stroke services will be provided to the HOSC in December 2023.

Background

The Kent and Medway Stroke Review was commissioned in 2014 in response to concerns by Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) about the performance and sustainability of hospital stroke services across all units in Kent and Medway. The CCGs and hospital trusts were tasked with developing proposals to improve outcomes for patients, reducing deaths and disability.

The review recommended a model of care involving specialist stroke services consolidated at three hospitals, each with a hyper-acute stroke unit (HASU) and an acute stroke unit (ASU), to ensure rapid access to specialist staff, equipment and imaging to improve quality and outcomes for patients.

Public consultation on the proposal was undertaken in 2018. The decision to establish HASU/ASUs in Dartford, Maidstone and Ashford was approved by the Secretary of State in November 2021.



Reconfiguration of acute stroke services

Details of the planned timescales for developing the three HASUs in Kent and Medway are shown in **Table 1**:

Table 1: Timescales for developing the three HASUs

| Site | Works | Completion of capital works |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Dartford Darent Valley Hospital (DVH) | Refurbishment of existing and additional space | October 2023 |
| Maidstone Maidstone Hospital (MGH) | Refurbishment of existing and additional space | December 2023 |
| Ashford William Harvey Hospital (WHH) | New build forward extension | Q3 2025/26 |

Phase 1 capital works is nearing completion (Dartford and Maidstone). The go-live dates for these units will be on or soon after 1 April 2024 and will be dependent on recruitment. Business cases for the recruitment of the additional staff to HASU levels are to be approved by the end of Q3 2023/24 (December).

The East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) scheme is being developed as a second phase due to capital constraints. Work is currently focussed on preparing for procurement.

Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP)

Table 2: SSNAP ratings from April 2021 – June 2023

| Hospital | April - Jun 21 | Jul - Sep 21 | Oct - Dec 21 | Jan - Mar 22 | April - Jun 22 | Jul - Sep 22 | Oct - Dec 22 | Jan - Mar 23 | April - Jun 23 |
|----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| DVH | D | C | B | B | B | B | C | C | B |
| K&C | A | A | A | B | B | B | A | A | A |
| MGH | A | A | B | B | B | A | B | A | A |

Table 3: SSNAP scoring summary from January 2023 – June 2023

| | Darent Valley Hospital | | Kent and Canterbury Hospital | | Maidstone District General Hospital | |
|---|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Jan - Mar 23 | April - Jun 23 | Jan - Mar 23 | April - Jun 23 | Jan - Mar 23 | April - Jun 23 |
| SSNAP level | C | B | A | A | A | A |
| SSNAP score | 64.6 | 73.1 | 86.0 | 86.0 | 88.0 | 80.8 |
| <i>Case ascertainment band</i> | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| <i>Audit compliance band</i> | B | B | A | A | A | B |
| Combined Total Key Indicator level | C | B | A | A | A | A |
| Combined Total Key Indicator score | 68.0 | 77.0 | 86.0 | 86.0 | 88.0 | 85.0 |
| <i>Team-centred post-72h all teams cohort</i> | 121 | 135 | 228 | 279 | 248 | 247 |

The ISDN is focused on making continual improvement across all aspects of the stroke pathway. Positively, there has already been improvement in SSNAP ratings related to the consolidation of the workforce onto three sites and the standardisation processes in the acute part of the pathway.

Dartford has seen significant improvements and has improved from a 'D' rating in April 2021 to a 'B' rating in October 2021. Scores reduced at Dartford and Maidstone over the winter period due to operational pressures but have since increased.