

Item 8: Kent and Medway children and young people’s mental health services procurement

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 February 2024

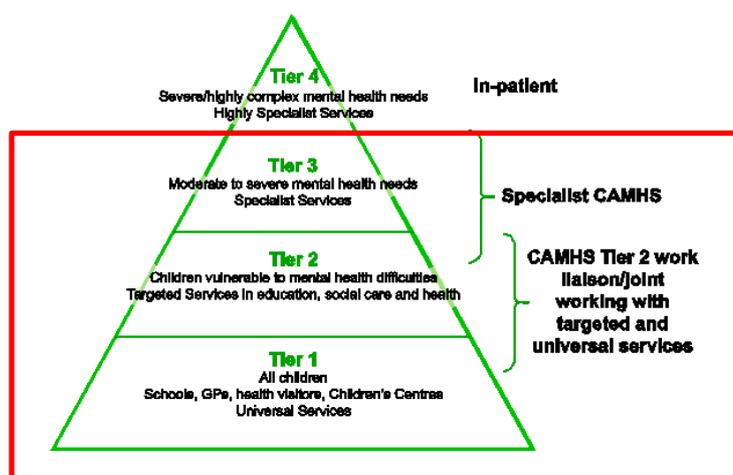
Subject: Kent and Medway children and young people’s mental health services procurement

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

The Committee has yet to determine if the changes represent a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) Children and young people’s mental health services (CYPMHS) is an umbrella term covering a wide range of services commissioned by the NHS and local government. The diagram below helps explain the four-tiered provision of the overall service.¹ NHS England commission tier 4 services and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Commission tier 1-3 services.



- b) NHS Kent & Medway (“the ICB”) has an annual budget of £37m to deliver mental health services for children and young people in Kent and Medway. They do this by commissioning a range of services from providers across the NHS, local authority and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. Services are delivered across primary care, schools, community groups, digitally and within specialist clinical settings. All the contracts with current service providers are due to expire by 31 August 2025.

¹ 1 Parliament (2014) CAMHS as a whole system, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhealth/342/34206.htm#note29>

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- c) In Kent and Medway, service tiers 1-2 are a combination of commissioning by the ICB, Local Authority, Primary Care Networks and schools and provided by a range of organisations. Tier 3 is commissioned by the ICB, with North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) as the provider.

2) Previous visits to Kent's HOSC

- a) Representatives from the ICB attended HOSC on 7 December 2023 to provide an overview of the upcoming procurement exercise. The procurement presents an opportunity to commission modernised services and support implementation of the Local Transformation Plan as well as outcomes in the Integrated Care Strategy.
- b) New contracts will be awarded on a 13-year basis, providing stability and security in the delivery of services. The ICB is working with stakeholders to develop what future services will look like. HOSC members attended a workshop led by the ICB on 8 February 2024.
- c) Children and Young People's mental health services have been a focus of HOSC for a number of years. These proposals sit against a backdrop of increasing challenges across the sector, including increasing demand for crisis services, increasing complexity of cases, increased levels of anxiety, growing waiting times, and workforce challenges.
- d) The ICB have been invited to attend today's meeting and provide an update on the procurement plan so that HOSC can decide if the proposals constitute a substantial variation of service. HOSC is asked to scrutinise the procurement of CYPMHS tiers 1-3.

3) Recommendation

- a) The Committee is asked to review whether this proposal constitutes a substantial variation of service. There are no formal criteria setting out what a substantial variation of service is, and it is down to the Committee to decide.
- b) Where the Committee decides a proposal is substantial, the NHS is required to consult with it prior to a final decision being made. The NHS always remains the decision-maker though must take the comments of the Committee into account.
- c) In considering substantial variations of service, the Committee will take into account the resource envelope within which the relevant NHS organisations operate and will therefore take into account the effect of the proposals on the sustainability of services, as well as on their quality and safety .

If the proposals relating to the ICB's procurement of CYPMHS are deemed substantial:

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RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that the procurement of CYPMHS in Kent and Medway is a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

If the proposals relating to the ICB's procurement of CYPMHS are not deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that the procurement of CYPMHS in Kent and Medway is not a substantial variation of service.
- (b) NHS representatives be invited to attend this Committee and present an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2023) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7/12/23)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9319&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2022) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (11/05/22)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8763&Ver=4>

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