

Item: Temporary changes at Sevenoaks Hospital

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 October 2024

Subject: Temporary changes at Sevenoaks Hospital

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT).

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## 1) Introduction

- a) Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) provides rehabilitation and intermediate care services from Sevenoaks Hospital. On 19 June 2024, the Trust announced that following a planned evacuation exercise, they were making urgent temporary changes to move their 19 inpatient rehabilitation beds from Sevenoaks Hospital to alternative sites.
- b) The NHS is not required to consult the Committee when it has acted because of a risk to patient safety or to ensure the welfare of patients or staff. Where this has been the case, the Committee is to be informed as soon as possible. The Trust provided an update for the Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2024. 15 replacement beds had been established in West View Integrated Care Centre – at the time of the meeting only 12 were open for use.
- c) The Trust explained that Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) were due to inspect the building again in October, by which time remedial work could have started. Major structural work was required, and that would come with a cost. It was confirmed that all options were being considered with no decision yet made.
- d) Following the discussion, it was “RESOLVED that the Committee consider and note the report”.
- e) The Trust has requested to return to the Committee with an update on the future of Sevenoaks Hospital.

## 2) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

## Background Documents

Kent County Council (2024) ‘*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (27/07/24)*’, <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9584&Ver=4>

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