

## Item 4: Faversham Cottage Hospital

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny  
To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 9 October 2025  
Subject: Faversham Cottage Hospital – temporary pause to inpatient ward

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

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### 1) Introduction

- a) The decision to pause inpatient admissions at Faversham Cottage Hospital was made on the grounds of patient safety, due to ongoing staffing challenges, particularly within registered nursing and leadership roles.
- b) Despite efforts to bolster staffing - by transferring colleagues from alternative hospitals, recruiting to vacant posts, supporting staff to return to work and using bank and agency workforce - the situation became unsustainable and was placing pressure on other services.
- c) In considering whether services' changes constitute substantial variations of service, the NHS is not required to consult with the Committee where the NHS has acted because of a risk to patient safety or to ensure the welfare of patients or staff. Nonetheless, the Committee has to be informed as soon as possible.

### 2) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report.

### Background Documents

None.

### Contact Details

Gaetano Romagnuolo  
Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny  
Email: [gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk](mailto:gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416624