

Item 6: Update on the proposed bed reductions on Whatman Ward, Maidstone Hospital

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny  
To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 October 2026  
Subject: Update on the proposed bed reductions on Whatman Ward, Maidstone Hospital

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

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## **1) Introduction**

- a) The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the proposed bed reductions on Whatman Ward at Maidstone Hospital, and the impact upon potentially affected staff. Whatman Ward is a 21-bedded facility which provides geriatric and acute frailty care.
- b) The current plan has delayed the reduction in bed capacity by two weeks and is designed to proceed in several phases. The first bay closure is planned for the end of week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026. It is expected that one bay per week will be closed thereafter, with a scheduled full closure of Whatman Ward by 6 November 2026.

## **2) Recommendation**

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee note and comment on the report.

## **Background Documents**

None.

## **Contact Details**

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