

Item 5: NHS Kent and Medway Community Services review and re-procurement

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6 September 2023

Subject: NHS Kent and Medway Community Services review and re-procurement

Summary: This report provides background information for members.

The Committee has yet to determine if this workstreams' proposals constitute a substantial variation of service.

1) Introduction

- a) The Community Contracts held by NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) expire at the end of March 2024 and need to be reprocured. As part of the process, NHS Kent and Medway are further developing the model of care for the provision of Community Services in collaboration with Health and Care system partners.
- b) A representative from the ICB attended HOSC's meeting on 19 July 2023, but the Committee did not feel it had enough information to make a decision around declaring a substantial variation of service. They invited the ICB to return to the next meeting when more information would be available.

2) Potential Substantial variation of service

- 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 deems the proposed changes as not being substantial, this shall not prevent it from reviewing the proposed changes at its discretion and making reports and recommendations to the NHS.
- c) Where the Committee deems the proposed changes as being substantial, the NHS must consult with it prior to a final decision being made, though the NHS always remains the decision maker.
- d) Once the final decision has been reported to HOSC, the Committee shall decide if it supports the decision, does not support the decision, and/or provide comment on it. Where it does not support the decision, the Committee can refer it to the Secretary of State.
- e) Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) will also be considering the changes to determine if they are substantial.

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3) **Recommendation**

If the proposals relating to the re-procurement of Community Services are deemed substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to the re-procurement of Community Services are 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 re-procurement of Community Services are deemed not substantial:

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the Committee deems that proposed changes to the re-procurement of Community Services are 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 (19/07/23)', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=9054&Ver=4>

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