

## Item 6: Dermatology Services Update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer to the Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 28 September 2020

Subject: Dermatology Services Update

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

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

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### 1. Introduction and Background

- (a) Dermatologists are specialist physicians who diagnose and treat diseases of the skin, hair and nails.<sup>1</sup>
- (b) DMC Healthcare was awarded the contract to deliver this service to residents of Medway, Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and Swale from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The previous service had been failing and there was a significant backlog of patients waiting for treatment.
- (c) On 23 June 2020, it was announced that the Kent and Medway CCG had suspended the contract with DMC Healthcare following new data which indicated there were risks with continuing with it.
- (d) This situation has been scrutinised by both Medway's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) and Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). As the service is accessed by both Kent and Medway residents, the Medway HASC has requested that the matter be brought to the JHOSC.

### 2. Joint Scrutiny

- (a) Regulation 21 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 allows a local authority to scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area. In addition, regulation 30 of the above Act also allows two or more local authorities to appoint a joint committee and carry out these functions where it considers this appropriate.
- (b) The JHOSC has the power to make recommendations and reports to the CCG on any matter it has reviewed under regulation 21, as well as to the referring health scrutiny committees in Kent and Medway.

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<sup>1</sup> British Association of Dermatologists, What is a dermatologist? [www.bad.org.uk](http://www.bad.org.uk)

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### 3. Legal Implications

- (a) The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 govern the local authority health scrutiny function. The provisions in the regulations relating to proposals for substantial health service developments or variations are set out in the body of this report.

### 4. Financial Implications

- (a) There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### 5. Recommendation

The JHOSC is invited to note and comment on the report.

## Background Documents

Kent County Council (2020) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (22/07/20)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8496&Ver=4>

Medway Council (2020) '*Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (18/08/20)*'  
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=4768&Ver=4>

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