

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 AUGUST 2015

CHANGES TO STERLING HOUSE GP SURGERY, CHATHAM

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Rosie Gunstone, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report is to inform the Committee of changes relating to Sterling House GP Surgery. The surgery is managed by College Health Ltd and they have recently given notice on their GP contract. The Committee have been invited by NHS England to comment on this issue.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in Medway. In carrying out health scrutiny a local authority must invite interested parties to comment and take account of any relevant information available to it, and in particular, relevant information provided to it by a local Healthwatch. The Council has delegated responsibility for discharging this function to this Committee and to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

2. Background

- 2.1 Attached to this report as Appendix A is a letter from NHS England detailing the changes to Sterling House GP Surgery and the action NHS England is taking in relation to the termination of the GP contract between College Health Ltd and the surgery.
- 2.2 NHS England have invited the committee to comment on this issue and an extension to the deadline for comments has been negotiated with NHS England to allow the committee to comment on this at its August meeting.

3. Risk management

- 3.1. There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

4. Legal and Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no legal or financial implications for the Council that has not already been covered in this report.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. The Committee is invited to respond to the letter from NHS England regarding the changes to the Sterling House GP Surgery.

Lead officer:

Rosie Gunstone, Democratic Services Officer

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Appendices

Appendix A – Letter from NHS England

Background papers:

None.



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Wharf House
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1RE
Email: england.kmatadmin@nhs.net
Telephone: 01293 729298

22 July 2015

Dear Stakeholder

**Re: Changes to Sterling House GP Surgery, Second Avenue, Luton,
Chatham, Kent ME4 5AU**

I am writing to inform you about some important changes to Sterling House GP Surgery. This surgery is managed by College Health Ltd and they have recently given notice on their General Practice contract.

This means that College Health's contract to provide GP services to patients at the Sterling House Surgery will end on 30 September 2015.

The purpose of this letter is firstly to assure you that NHS England's priority is to guarantee that patients have continued access to a full range of GP services and care after this date and we are now working with the CCG and local practices to identify the best available options for patients and the rest of the community.

However there is the possibility that patients will be required to register with a new GP practice but NHS England can assure you that patients will be given plenty of notice and support if this is the case. Therefore NHS England would like to you the opportunity to express any concerns or issues you may have in regards to this in order that this can be considered as part of the final decision making process. Should you therefore wish to comment please respond to the email above by 7 August 2015.

We have written to all of the patients at Sterling House Surgery advising them of this situation and providing them with an opportunity to raise any concerns or issues about the closure of Sterling House Surgery, which will be feed into the final decision making process. All patients will be contacted again in August once we have completed our review and have a definite outcome regarding the future provision of GP services to their local community.

Please note that Sterling House Surgery will continue to provide services to patients until 30 September 2015.

We will write to you again during August once we have further information

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about the future of this practice.

We understand that this is an uncertain time for patients and that they may be concerned about future access to GP services in your area. Please help us to re-assure them that NHS England is continuing to explore all options to ensure the best arrangements for their care as well as a smooth transition.

We will continue to update you as information becomes available.

In the meantime if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us or contact the Sterling House Surgery direct.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Macdonald.

Sarah Macdonald
Director of Commissioning