

MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

15 SEPTEMBER 2015

RESPONSE TO LATEST CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION OF MEDWAY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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Summary

This report advises the Health and Wellbeing Board of collaborative action being taken across the local healthcare system to support Medway NHS Foundation Trust following a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of the Trust at the end of August 2015.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board seeks to provide collective leadership to improve health and wellbeing across the local authority area, enable shared decision-making and ownership of decisions in an open and transparent way. The Board has a responsibility to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health and social care services in the area to work together in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people of Medway.
- 1.2 The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to accept this report as an additional urgent item for consideration at this meeting as the next meeting is not until 3 November 2015 and it is important that the Board receives an immediate update on developments arising from a CQC Inspection of Medway NHS Foundation Trust which took place at the end of August.

2. Report

- 2.1 Following the latest CQC Inspection of Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) at the end of August, the Trust is keen to make improvements and have asked for support from across the local healthcare system to help them in

doing this. The hospital has been rated as inadequate by the CQC since May 2014 and had been placed in special measures by the Commission before that following a Keogh review. The Council has been supporting the Trust and Commissioners in the improvement journey since that time.

2.2 The CQC findings will not be formally reported until later in the year. In the meantime the Chief Inspector of Hospitals has said the CQC was concerned by the lack of clinical leadership in the accident and emergency department and the subsequent risk to patient safety. The CQC found that in the busiest times the Emergency Department was not able to cope with the numbers of patients attending; patients in need of treatment were waiting too long to see a doctor, or were being left unattended while they waited.

2.3 In response to MFT's request for support NHS England and local Commissioning Groups are working actively with health providers across Kent, Medway and South East England to consider how best to provide this support to the Trust. Attached as appendix A is a letter from NHS England to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board explaining the proposed action in this regard. There has been an emphasis on putting in place the most appropriate actions to fully support the Trust, whilst ensuring the ongoing quality and safety of care for patients across the local area.

3. Risk management

3.1 Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council and partners have a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieving strategic objectives and enhancement of the value of services they provide to the community.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Failure to secure improvements required to consistently deliver safe effective and high quality care in the Emergency Department at Medway Maritime Hospital	Medway NHS Foundation Trust, in collaboration with Commissioners and other health and social care providers need to respond to the CQC findings in order to secure safe effective and high quality care in the Emergency Department. Otherwise the CQC will consider using its urgent powers to protect the continued safety and wellbeing of people who rely on this service.	NHS England and local Clinical Commissioning Groups are actively coordinating a plan of action to support MFT.

4. Consultation

4.1 NHS England is engaging with stakeholders to evaluate and agree the action required to support Medway NHS Foundation Trust to make required improvements following the latest CQC Inspection of the Trust.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 NHS England, local Clinical Commissioning Groups and MFT are working together to assess and address any financial pressures arising for the latest CQC findings following its inspection of MFT in August 2015.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Care Quality Commission was established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as the independent regulator of health and social care in England. The Commission monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety. The CQC publishes its findings, including performance ratings, to help people choose care. Medway NHS Foundation Trust is under an obligation to respond to areas of concern identified by the CQC, to develop an action plan to address them and make improvements. The CQC has a range of powers including authority to use requirement notices or warning notices or to place a provider in special measures.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the action being taken to address CQC interim findings following an inspection of MFT in August 2015.

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Appendices

Appendix A – letter from NHS England to Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board

Background papers

None