

Response sent on behalf of the Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Senior representatives of the Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group continue to regularly attend meetings of the Medway Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss the challenges facing the Trust.

The Committee first discussed the overarching Improvement Plan for the hospital with the, then newly appointed Chief Executive, in June 2015. These discussions resulted in a number of Members visiting the hospital in September 2015. The Committee has taken a keen interest in the outcomes of previous CQC inspections during this period. In October 2015, the Committee discussed the August 2015 CQC inspection with the Chief Nurse.

Following this, in December 2015, the Chief Executive and the Director of Clinical Operations attended the Committee to discuss Acute and Continuing Care progress against the CQC Improvement Plan and progress in relation to mortality rates at the hospital. A number of points were raised by Members and the Committee requested an update on the CQC inspection findings and next steps.

Given the severe pressure on the Emergency Department at the hospital the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and spokespersons of the Committee, together with a representative from Medway Council's Adult Social Care Team, met with the Emergency Care Improvement Team from NHS Medway Foundation Trust to receive feedback on how the system was coping with winter pressures.

In January 2016, the Committee discussed the CQC inspection report with representatives from the Trust and welcomed the positive comments in the report, particularly in relation to maternity and gynaecological services and services for children and young people. At this stage, the Committee asked to see the Trust's Action Plan to address the issues in the inspection report and the overall inadequate rating of the Trust. Further information on specific issues was also requested. The Chief Executive of the Trust attended the Committee in March 2016 to explain the Action Plan, although it was not possible for the Implementation Plan to be shared at that time due to it not having been signed off by the CQC. However, the Committee acknowledged the work by staff at the hospital in trying to put improvements in place. The Quality Summit that had taken place in February 2016 was seen as having been positive as was the new management structure that had been put in place by MFT.

The Committee received an update from the MFT Chief Executive in June 2016. Committee Members felt that progress had been made on the Trust's recovery programme, while acknowledging that further improvements were still needed. At this meeting, the Chief Executive stated that the Trust needed to quicken the pace of progress to ensure that it was no longer subject to special measures by the end of the calendar year. In relation to the Trust's budget deficit of £52.5m in 2015/16, it was acknowledged that the reliance on agency staff needed to be reduced. A further update is due to be provided by MFT to the Committee at its next meeting on 15 November.

The dialogue between Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Medway NHS Foundation continues to be ongoing and constructive. The Committee continues to provide challenge and to seek assurance that the Action Plan and measures being put in place by the Trust, Commissioners

and other partners will make the impact required to provide the highest quality of care for patients.

Healthwatch Medway has a non-voting seat on the Committee and actively provides details of feedback that it receives from patients and other stakeholders. This assists with triangulating the information provided by MFT and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group. The Pensioner's Forum is also represented on the Committee. This helps to represent the views of older people using health services in Medway.