

CQC Inspection of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT)

Commentary from Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In relation to the previous inspection of the Trust in March 2015, the Committee welcomed the positive CQC findings with regard to Forensic Services and the care provided by KMPT staff. The Committee was concerned by the overall inspection rating of 'Requires improvement' and was keen to keep a close watch on progress to implement the improvements required as an outcome of the CQC findings.

Senior representatives of KMPT continue to regularly attend meetings of Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The dialogue between the Committee and KMPT has been ongoing and constructive.

In January 2016, a visit by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to services provided by KMPT served to highlight the challenges facing the Trust. Following this visit, KMPT attended the January 2016 meeting of the Committee. Members were encouraged by the multi-agency integrated approach being taken at Medway Maritime Hospital. However, concern was expressed by some Members about the numbers of acutely mentally ill patients being held in the Clinical Decision Unit at Medway Maritime hospital awaiting an inpatient bed.

The Committee was informed that some joint working was taking place between Medway Council and KMPT to develop an integrated care pathway across mental health and social care.

KMPT has provided updates to the Committee on three further occasions in 2016, in June, August and November.

The newly appointed Chief Executive of KMPT was welcomed to the Committee for the first time in June. A concern raised by the Committee was that people with mental health issues were being held in cells and that beds should be found for them instead. Concerns remained with regard to the £4.4 million cost in the previous year of providing beds outside Medway, with a Councillor suggesting that this could have been better used to provide a ward in Medway. The Chief Executive of KMPT stated that the Trust wished to see patients treated in beds in Medway and looked after by the Trust's staff rather than being placed in private beds. Addressing this would, however, take time and required joined up working with other agencies.

The Committee has previously raised concern about the level of reliance on out of area acute beds, with there currently being no provision of acute mental health beds in Medway. The Chairman of the Committee has met with the, then newly appointed, Chief Executive of KMPT to discuss these issues.

At its August 2016 meeting, the Committee was advised that the number of mental health patients needing to be placed in beds outside Kent and Medway had fallen from 76 in March 2016 to 49 in June. It was anticipated that this figure would reduce

to 15 by November 2016. The Chief Executive of KMPT acknowledged that recruitment and filling of vacancies was proving to be a challenge.

At the November 2016 meeting of the Committee, the Chief Executive of KMPT informed the Committee that a Whole System Mental Health Workshop had taken place on 12 October 2016. Following this, a report had been presented to the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board on 3 November and a Mental Health Strategy was due to be developed. This would involve close collaboration between Medway Council and KMPT. The Chief Executive confirmed that a follow up meeting was due to take place with relevant agencies following the workshop and gave assurance that providers would be held to account.

The Trust had hit its target to reduce the use of private inpatient acute mental health beds to a maximum of 15 by the end of October 2016. A plan was in place to ensure that this reduction was sustained and medical professionals were involved in the work. A detailed plan was being developed to address the recruitment issues highlighted at the August meeting.

The Committee raised concerns in relation to the availability of Street Triage. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to request that the Medway Council Cabinet emphasises to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of Street Triage. This request is due to be considered by Cabinet in January 2017.

Achievements made to date in enabling people in acute beds to be discharged to an appropriate place and the work being undertaken to reduce readmissions following an emergency stay were both recognised by the Committee.

The Committee continues to provide challenge and to seek assurance that the measures being put in place by the Trust, commissioners and other partners will lead to the impact required to achieve an improved CQC rating and to provide services of the highest standard for Medway residents.

In addition to representation to overview and Scrutiny, KMPT has also attended the Health and Wellbeing Board and jointly led a Multi agency mental health workshop on 12 October 2016. This was to facilitate discussions which will inform the Medway multi agency Strategy. This will also respond to concerns raised by the overview and Scrutiny committee throughout the year.