



CABINET

17 JANUARY 2017

REFERRALS FROM HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brake, Adult Services

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Summary

This report sets out a referral from the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee with regard to two of the agenda items considered at the Committee meeting held on 15 November 2016.

In relation to the Development of GP Services in Medway (agenda item no. 7), the Committee “Recommended that Cabinet notes the risks that falling GP numbers will present to Medway residents and the implications for Adult Social Care.”

With regards to the KMPT Mental Health update (agenda item no. 9), the Committee “Agreed to recommend that Cabinet emphasises to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of street triage.”

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committees may make recommendations to the Cabinet arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process (Constitution – Articles of the Constitution - Chapter 2, Article 6, Paragraph 6.4).
- 1.2. At its meeting held on 15 November 2016, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to make two recommendations to Cabinet, as set out in section 2 of this report.

2. Background

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 November 2016

2.1. Development of GP Services in Medway

- 2.2. The Committee considered a report on the Development of GP services in Medway. The report set out the challenges facing local services and detailed both national and local initiatives to address these challenges and to develop services in a way that provides improved care and access for local patients.
- 2.3. The Risk Management section of the report stated that there were no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from the report. However, the Chairman advised that although this was technically correct, he considered that the Council would be potentially exposed to risk in the event that declining GP numbers made it increasingly difficult for residents to get an appointment or care from their GP.
- 2.4. The report advised that the recruitment and retention of GPs was proving a challenge for GP practices across the country, with many older GPs reaching retirement age. Around 38.6% of the GP population was over the age of 60 within Medway. Other issues affecting the workforce included that younger GPs were increasingly choosing to work as locums and as salaried GPs, rather than entering into GP partnerships and running practices themselves, while some GPs were also choosing to work part time. There were a large number of local vacancies for GPs and practice nurses. This was a challenge that was being experienced in Medway and in other areas.
- 2.5. Some practices felt that they did not have the operational capacity to register new patients at the current time, while some practices were closing branch surgeries and looking to consolidate their services on fewer sites.
- 2.6. An increasing number of practices in the South East had resigned their contracts to provide GP services over the past couple of years. In the Medway area, two GP practices had given notice on their contracts to provide services during this time. There had also been local instances where NHS England had needed to take the decision to ask patients to register at other local practices in order to ensure their ongoing care. This was a result of other local GP practice contracts coming to an end and where it was determined that it would not be feasible to reprocur these contracts in their existing forms.
- 2.7. The Committee agreed to recommend that Cabinet notes the risks that falling GP numbers will present to Medway residents and the implications for Adult Social Care.

2.8. **KMPT Mental Health Update**

The Committee considered a report that provided an update on the work of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT).

- 2.9. Street Triage involves mental health workers going out on patrol with Police Officers. One benefit of the scheme is the potential for it to help avoid the need for the Police to use Section 136 powers, which allow them to remove a person to a place of a safety, where there were concerns for their wellbeing for mental health reasons.
- 2.10. Provision of Street Triage from November 2016 was summarised in the Committee Report as follows:

Based within the Kent Police Force Control Room and South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust [SECAMB], Emergency Room, the pan-county service will operate between 16.00 and 00.00 hours Sunday to Tuesday from November 2016. Currently, the night service comprises one band 4 nurse within the Control Room; this is increasing to one band 6 nurse who will respond in person and two band 4 nurses who will be based in the Control and Emergency Rooms to provide advice from November 2016. In addition as an extension to the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service based within the Kent Police Northfleet custody suite (Gravesend) the pan-country day service will operate between 09.00 and 17.00 hours Monday to Friday from November 2016. This service will comprise one band 7 senior practitioner who will respond in person.

- 2.11. In response to a Member question about the current provision of Street Triage, the Chief Executive of KMPT advised that there was some provision in Dartford but that this was not able to cover the whole of Kent and Medway. She stated that consideration was being given as to how to work with commissioners, the Police and patients to improve provision. The Committee report stated that one priority of KMPT was to work with Kent Police and health commissioners to introduce Street Triage across Kent and Medway.
- 2.12. The Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet emphasises to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of street triage.

3. **Advice and analysis on options**

- 3.1. The options open to Cabinet are as follows:

Option 1 – To agree both recommendations from Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee for Cabinet to:

- i) Note the risks that falling GP numbers will present to Medway residents and the implications for Adult Social Care.
- ii) Emphasise to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of street triage.

Option 2 – To agree one of the recommendations listed in option 1 and not the other.

Option 3 – To agree neither of the recommendations listed in option 1.

- 3.2. In relation to the Development of GP Services, the report presented to the Committee had advised that there were no specific risk implications to Medway. The Chairman advised at the meeting that although there were no direct risks to the Council arising from the contents of the report, he considered that the Council would be potentially exposed to risk in the event that declining GP numbers made it increasingly difficult for residents to get an appointment or care from their GP.
- 3.3. The advice from the Chairman was on the basis that there could be an adverse impact on Adult Social Care provision in the event that residents are unable to get an appointment with their GP. This was because they could then require social care provision that they may not otherwise have needed, had they been able to see their GP.
- 3.4. This announcement by the Chairman resulted in the Committee agreeing the recommendation for a referral to Cabinet. There was no discussion of the issue otherwise.
- 3.5. With regard to the recommendation that Cabinet emphasises to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of Street Triage, it is considered that this recommendation arose due to the Chief Executive of KMPT stating that it was not feasible for the existing provision, based in Dartford, to cover the whole of Kent and Medway.
- 3.6. The Committee report stated that one priority of KMPT was to work with Kent Police and health commissioners to introduce Street Triage across Kent and Medway. However, the recommendation agreed by the Committee only recommends that Cabinet emphasises the importance of Street Triage to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and does not mention health commissioners. This may be due to the fact that the Accountable Officer from Medway NHS Clinical Commissioning Group was present at the Committee meeting. Therefore, Cabinet may wish to consider whether it also wishes to emphasise the importance of Street Triage to health commissioners, in the event that it is minded to accept the Committee's recommendation.

4. Risk Management

4.1. The following risks are considered relevant:

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Increase in pressure on Adult Social Care provision	Decreased number of GPs in Medway has adverse impact on Adult Social Care (ASC) provision due to people being unable to get GP appointments and their ASC needs increasing as a result.	Implementation of the support measures for GPs announced as part of the General Practice Forward View (published in April 2016) and implementation of plans by Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to develop GP services that will meet patient needs over the coming years.
Lack of sufficient Street Triage provision in Medway.	Provision of Street Triage is not expanded, resulting in there being a lack of provision in Medway	KMPT has stated that working with Kent Police and health commissioners to improve Street Triage provision is a priority; Acceptance of Health and Adult Social Care OS&C recommendation to Cabinet.

5. Consultation

5.1. No consultation has been undertaken or is required in relation to the recommendations contained in this report.

6. Financial and Legal Implications

6.1. There are no specific financial implications for the Council arising directly from this report.

6.2. Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to ensure that its Overview and Scrutiny Committees have power to make recommendations to the Leader and Cabinet in respect of the discharge of Council functions (executive and non-executive) and also on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of the area.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. Cabinet is asked to consider the following recommendations from the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agree a way forward:

The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that:

- i) Cabinet notes the risks that falling GP numbers will present to Medway residents and the implications for Adult Social Care.
- ii) Cabinet emphasises to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner the importance of street triage.

8. Suggested reasons for decision

- 8.1 The Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee has made these recommendations to Cabinet in accordance with its entitlement, under the Council's Constitution, to make recommendations to Cabinet arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process (Constitution – Articles of the Constitution - Chapter 2, Article 6, Paragraph 6.4). Cabinet is, therefore, required to consider its response.

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Appendices:

- Appendix A - Report on Development of GP Services in Medway considered by Health and Adult Social Care O and S on 15 November 2016
- Appendix B - Report, KMPT Mental Health Update considered by Health and Adult Social Care O and S on 15 November 2016

Background Papers:

Minutes of Health and Adult Social Care O and S, 15 November 2016
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3400&Ver=4>

General Practice Forward View, NHS England, published April 2016
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/>