

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 AUGUST 2017

PETITIONS

Report from: Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

To advise the Committee of any petitions received by the Council which fall within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the response sent to the petition organisers by officers.

1. Budget and policy framework

1.1 In summary, the Council's Petition Scheme requires the relevant Director to respond to the petition organiser, usually within 10 working days of the receipt of the petition by the Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are always advised of any petitions falling within their terms of reference together with the officer response. There is a right of referral of a petition for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the petitioners if they consider the Director's response to be inadequate. Should the Committee determine that the petition has not been dealt with adequately it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include instigating an investigation, making recommendations to Cabinet and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council.

1.2 The petition scheme is set out in full in the Council's Constitution at:
<http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/4.01%20-Council%20rules.pdf>

1.3 Any budget or policy framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

2. Background

2.1 The Council's Constitution provides that petitions received by the Council relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.

2.2 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent setting out the proposed action and timescales for implementation.

2.3 For petitions where the petition organiser is not satisfied with the response provided by the Director there is provision for the petition organiser to request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the steps the Council has taken, or is proposing to take, in response to the petition. No such request has been received for this meeting.

3 Completed petitions

3.1 The response to a petition relevant to this Committee that has been accepted by the petition organiser is set out below.

Subject of petition	Response
<p>E- petition for the Council to oppose the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)</p> <p>20 signatures</p>	<p>Your petition describes that “proposals in the STP will mean the merging and closure of NHS services across Kent and Medway”.</p> <p>Kent and Medway, like other parts of England, have the challenge of balancing significantly increasing demand, the need to improve quality of care and improve access all within the financial constraints of ever constricting budgets over the next five years. This is an exciting opportunity to change the way we deliver prevention and care to our population. We are working in new ways to meet people’s needs and aspirations, ensuring an increased quality of support by a flexible NHS and social care provision. The main priority of the STP is to work with clinicians and the public to transform Local Care through the integration of primary, community, mental health and social care and re-orientate some elements of traditional acute hospital care into the community. This will ensure patients get joined-up care that considers the individual as a whole – something patients have said clearly and consistently that they want. This is about providing a joined-up approach to health services and providing connections across the system both in social care and the wider community that will reduce pressure on NHS services from a rapidly growing population, whilst maintaining quality of care.</p> <p>Your petition also notes that this “will place unacceptable and unsustainable pressure on Medway Hospital, only recently taken out of special measures.”</p> <p>Clinical evidence tells us that many patients, particularly the elderly frail, who are currently supported in an acute hospital, are better cared for in other settings. Therefore by enabling a more holistic view of the patient and ensuring more services are locally available through multi-disciplinary local care teams the pressure on</p>

Subject of petition	Response
	<p>hospitals like Medway Maritime will reduce. Overly changing the setting of care for these individuals will be truly transformational. There are already proven examples of where this new approach is being delivered such as the Encompass Vanguard comprising 16 practices (170,000 patients) in east Kent who are operating as a multi-specialty community provider (MCP), providing a wide range of primary care and community services).By working better together across health and social care in Medway we have already introduced significant improvements in services to prevent unnecessary admissions and improve discharge planning for patients so they do not stay longer than medically required in hospital.</p> <p>Your petition further describes that the proposals also threaten “local NHS services through merger and rationalisation alongside social care”</p> <p>Acute care will need to change to improve patient experience and outcomes; achieve a more sustainable workforce infrastructure; and make best use of our estate, reducing our environmental impact and releasing savings. We want to continue to create centres of acute clinical expertise that see a greater separation between planned and unplanned care. This would end the current pattern of much-needed surgery being delayed because of pressure on beds for non-elective patients. Through this we will deliver referral to treatment time (RTT) targets; improve workforce rotas, retention and morale; and release significant savings, alongside investment in Local Care. Increased joint working between health and care, with a shift of investment from acute to community based services will delivery significant improvements in terms of service quality and the patient / client experience.</p>

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 The Council has a clear scheme for handling petitions set out in its Constitution. This ensures consistency and clarity of process, minimising the risk of complaints about the administration of petitions.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Rule 21.1 (xiv) in the Council's Constitution provides that the terms of reference of this Committee include the power to deal with petitions referred to the Committee under and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to note the petition response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.