

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2018

MEMBER ITEM: GP PROVISION ON THE HOO PENINSULA

Report from / Authors: James Williams, Director of Public Health
Dave Harris, Head of Planning
Tracy Rouse, Director of Primary Care, Medway NHS
Clinical Commissioning Group
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report sets out a response to an issue, raised by Councillor Freshwater, in relation to GP provision on the Hoo Peninsula.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Freshwater has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

2. The Issue

2.1 Councillor Freshwater has requested that an item be placed on the agenda and the reasons set out by Councillor Freshwater are as follows:

2.2 Residents and new residents are frustrated at the lack of ongoing transparent information where no real additional Medway healthcare services or NHS services or GP services have been provided for residents of 2,000 new homes already built on the Hoo Peninsula. There is great concern over new Local Plan 2035 proposals where thousands of additional new homes are to be built on the Hoo Peninsula. Section 106 payments and mitigation statements do not translate into real additional services and residents are asking that a new system, similar to the health impact statement be put in place and updated to provide transparent ongoing information on additional Medway healthcare services, NHS services and GP services being provided to meet the health needs of existing and new Hoo Peninsula local residents.

2.3 I would like the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the adequacy of existing and planned GP services for residents on the Hoo Peninsula. In particular I would like the Committee to consider:

- a) The level of GP provision for Peninsula residents in 2013 as compared with 2018 and the projected provision for 2023 alongside actual population figures for 2013 and 2018 and projected population figures for 2023 and how this compares to the picture across the rest of Medway in terms of access to primary care.
- b) The health impact for Hoo Peninsula residents of an increasing and ageing population , more complex health conditions and existing and planned housing development in the context of increasing pressure on GP services.
- c) Whether enough is being done by Medway CCG, as the Commissioner of Primary Care, to minimise the extent to which Hoo Peninsula residents, who are unable to access GP services locally , are having to travel to the NHS Health Centre in Gillingham often involving a lengthy journey each way by public transport and a long wait once there.
- d) Whether deliverable plans have been put in place by health service commissioners to address gaps in GP provision and meet increasing levels of demand for GP Services on the Hoo Peninsula in the longer term.
- e) whether Medway Council is doing all it can through its Public Health and Planning functions to ensure GP provision and associated transport infrastructure is considered and taken into account when decisions are being made on future housing developments in the rural parts of Medway .
- f) Whether it consider that specific reference should be made in each of the Councils Local Plan 2035 scenarios to the Health Impact on the population of the Hoo Peninsula, where it is unlikely that sufficient health infrastructure and resources or any new substantial arterial roads will be put in place before houses on developments have been built. This will severely impact on the health of existing residents, including substantial increases in air pollution from both the reliance on cars and additional HGVs serving new commercial businesses (Highways England modelling and Declaration of Four Elms Hill Air Quality Management Area).

3. Director of Public Health Comments

3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a statutory duty on upper tier Local Authorities and NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), to develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The JHWS provides a framework to monitor partnership working and collaboration to address issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of residents. Local priorities are generally derived from a range of sources, however the Joint Strategic Needs

Assessment (JSNA) is the primary tool used to identify the key issues.

- 3.2 The Medway JHWS is currently in the process of refresh and is being reviewed by relevant council and CCG committees prior to final endorsement by Cabinet. The updated strategy will cover the period 2018 to 2013 and is focused on 5 themes:
- Giving every child a good start
 - Enabling our older population to live independently and well
 - Preventing early death and increasing years of healthy life
 - Improving mental and physical health and wellbeing
 - Reducing health inequalities
- 3.3 The Medway Public Health Department regularly refreshes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The JSNA includes bespoke locality profiles. These profiles provide an in-depth analysis of local factors that could impact on health and wellbeing of a specific locality. There is a locality profile for the Peninsula which is refreshed periodically. The JSNA, locality profiles and other analyses, are used by commissioners such as the CCG, service providers and other stakeholders, for example NHS England, to tailor their services to best meet the needs of local people. It should also be noted that public health are directly involved in shaping the 'Medway Model'. This new way of working focuses on developing and bringing together a range of NHS, social care, voluntary and community services to better meet local needs.
- 3.4 The Public Health Department engage strategically with the Planning Department. The new Medway local plan which is currently being consulted on, has had public health input. Medway Council is proactively engaging with developers at a very early stage of planning. Developers now have to ensure proposals are in line with sustainable development goals set out in the Medway Local Plan. This means they need to take into account and provide mitigation for, any negative health impacts of their development at the planning stage.

4. Head of Planning Comments

- 4.1 With the development of land to the east of Bells Lane as part of the 2003 Local Plan allocation (and appeal decision) the Council as Local Planning Authority secured an extension to the Bells Lane surgery in order provide for the new residents to the village. This extension and associated car park has been constructed. There have previously been some structural problems limiting its use which have now been resolved. The CCG has worked with the practice to find a solution to enable the additional facilities to be brought back into effective use.
- 4.2 With all major residential applications granted for residential development in and around Hoo in recent years, Section 106 contributions have been secured, in accordance with requests from the CCG, to go towards the provision of health facilities to help meet the needs of the growing community.

The Council is in discussion with the CCG over the spend of the contributions received.

- 4.3 It is recognised that Medway is growing and the evolving Local Plan will need to plan for that growth. This not only means providing the housing to meet the needs of that growing population, but also providing the necessary infrastructure to meet their needs and this includes health provision. The Council is in consultation with the CCG about what is required and where and this will form part of the Local Plan going forward.

5. Medway NHS Clinical Commissioning Group Comments

- 5.1 The CCG recognises that there is going to be a significant increase of population on the Hoo Peninsula. The Council's draft Local Plan recognises the current challenges on infrastructure and access to healthcare services. The scale of population growth will inevitably place challenges on the CCG to deliver new or expanded facilities to support our current providers whilst developing and growing their workforce to deliver services to this new population.
- 5.2 When the local plan is finalised the CCG will continue to work with the Council Planning Department and Public Health to agree where the growth in infrastructure is required. Initial thoughts are that the Hoo Peninsula will require its own Healthy Living Centre to deliver not only increased Primary Care but enable more health and social care services to be delivered locally to meet the growing needs of its population.
- 5.3 The current planning assumptions that the CCG are using are the Council's projections until 2021/22.
- 5.4 For the Peninsula Ward this equates to 267 new dwellings equating to an additional 641 people. For this period of time this compares favourably to other areas such as Strood and Rochester.
- 5.5 There are currently 3 Practices serving the Peninsula, St Werburgh, The Elms and The Parks. All lists are currently open to new registrations.
- 5.6 Initial review of GMS estate capacity has confirmed that there is physical space for practices to expand to meet initial predicted demand. Workforce within the practices continues to be a challenge and the practices are all actively working with the CCG via the Local Care Teams to implement the General Practice Forward View.
- 5.7 Patients at one local practice were temporarily being asked to travel to a branch surgery at Balmoral in Gillingham. This was due to building works at the main site and has since been resolved.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of this report. However, the Committee has previously noted that the Council could potentially be exposed to risk in the event that declining GP numbers make it increasingly difficult for residents to get an appointment or care from their GP.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial or legal implications for Medway Council directly arising from this report.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes and comments on the Member's item.

Lead contact

Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01634 332715 E-mail: jon.pitt@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.