

## **HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**16 OCTOBER 2018**

### **SINGLE PATHOLOGY SERVICE FOR KENT AND MEDWAY**

Report from: Lesley Dwyer, Chief Executive, Medway Foundation Trust

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#### **Summary**

The report at Appendix 1 informs the Committee of the review of pathology services across Kent and Medway.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in Medway. In carrying out health scrutiny a local authority must invite interested parties to comment and take account of any relevant information available to it, and in particular, relevant information provided to it by a local Healthwatch. The Council has delegated responsibility for discharging this function to this Committee and to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The report at Appendix 1 provides details of the review of pathology services undertaken by provider NHS Trusts across Kent and Medway on the creation of a single service in response to the National Pathology Network Strategy.
- 2.2 The report states that the Chief Executives of the four acute provider trusts in Kent and Medway – Medway NHS Foundation Trust, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust – have signed up to a shared vision, goal and key principles for the creation of a single pathology service for Kent and Medway. This is about creating a more vibrant, self-sufficient service which meets the needs now and in the future, and is affordable for trusts.
- 2.3 Potential options have been scoped and a long list created. Scoring criteria were due to be applied in mid-September, with accredited staff representatives from each trust involved in the process. The report sets out the seven options.

2.4 As the review is part of nationally mandated changes, the Committee is not being asked to consider whether they would amount to a substantial variation in health services in Medway.

### **3. Risk management**

3.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

### **4. Legal and Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no legal or financial implications for the Council directly arising from this report.

### **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the review of pathology services across Kent and Medway and to consider when a further update should be provided to the Committee.

### **Officer Contact**

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - A Single Pathology Service for Kent and Medway.

### **Background papers:**

None.