

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 AUGUST 2020

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESTART OF NHS SERVICES

Report from: Wilf Williams, Accountable Officer – Kent and Medway CCG
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Summary

The report at Appendix 1 provides the Committee with an overview of the COVID-19 response and restart of NHS services.

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 attached report sets out how the NHS across Kent and Medway is working together in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and will continue to do so through the restart phase of work.

2.2 The local NHS is now focussed on three overarching issues:

- Ensuring there is sufficient capacity to care for people who continue to be infected with COVID-19
- Restart non-COVID-19 services
- Meet the increased demand across rehabilitation and mental health services for those affected by COVID-19 either directly or indirectly.

3. Risk management

- 3.1 The risks associated with the restart and recovery programme include the impact of a potential second wave of COVID-19, particularly if it were to coincide with winter which traditionally sees a surge in demand for healthcare services.
- 3.2 This could, in turn, have an impact on other services such as elective surgery and diagnostics.
- 3.3 The need to maintain social distancing within healthcare settings for the protection of patients and staff also impacts capacity.
- 3.4 Risks and mitigations are discussed at a strategic level within partner organisations to ensure all parts of the care system are in the best possible position to continue with the restart and recovery programme and at the same time to prepare for winter and a potential second wave of COVID-19.
- 3.5 The ICP has established a Joint Strategic Response Team which meets regularly and comprises senior representatives from Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Medway Community Healthcare, Medway Council, the CCG and other partners, to consider progress and risk management.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to Medway Council arising directly from the recommendations contained in this report.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications to Medway Council arising directly from the recommendations contained in this report.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Committee is invited to note and comment on the report attached at Appendix 1 and to consider how frequently it would like to receive updates on the NHS restart programme.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report on NHS Kent and Medway NHS Restart Programme

Appendix 2 – Progress against urgent/critical care priorities in Kent and Medway

Background papers

None.