

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2023

MEMBER'S ITEM: RAINHAM HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director – Legal and Governance

Author: Michael Turner, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report sets out a Member's item raised by Councillor Potter, in relation to the GP access in Rainham.

1. Budget and policy framework

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

2. The Issue

2.1 In March 2021 the Committee considered a petition organised by Cllr Potter (Appendix 1). The petition statement was as follows:

'The CCG need to locate GP practices where they can be easily accessed by local people, particularly the elderly and most vulnerable, and they must ensure Rainham residents can get access to GP services when they need them.'

2.2 The Committee made a number of decisions, including:

- Welcoming the assurance given by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that local people will be consulted and engaged on any proposals relating to the Rainham Health Living Centre.
- Welcoming the commitment given by the CCG that this Committee will be consulted on any proposals to change the current primary care provision at the Rainham Healthy Living Centre.

2.3 Members are reminded that Clinical Commissioning Groups were disbanded in 2022. The Integrated Care Board is now responsible for the day to day

running of the NHS in Kent and Medway, including planning and buying healthcare services.

- 2.4 Councillor Potter has recently requested that an item be placed on this agenda as follows:

“I would like an update from the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board on the current primary care provision at the Rainham Healthy Living Centre (HLC). I would also like an update on primary care and GP strategy as it relates to Rainham. I would like an overview of action being taken to address inequalities associated with the lack of provision of HLC’s in Medway and linked to this, steps being taken to address any potential underutilisation of HLC’s.”

3. Response from Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board

- 3.1 General practice is very often the first contact the people of Kent and Medway have with the NHS. The number of available appointments now compared to before the pandemic is seven per cent higher than it was.
- 3.2 We have launched a campaign to promote Kent and Medway as an enjoyable, supportive and interesting place to be a GP; hoping to recruit 20 new GPs to Medway, Thanet and Swale, where GP levels are lowest.
- 3.3 The additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS) shows that there were 607 whole time equivalent (WTE) roles recruited by the end December 2022 in the ARRS across Kent and Medway. Medway have 138 WTE of the 607 WTE additional roles in post. There is a three per cent increase in GP appointments compared to this time last year.
- 3.4 When you look at the ratings of the 185 GP practices across Kent and Medway by the Care Quality Commission, the majority – 85 per cent – are outstanding or good. For Rainham, there is one GP provider rated as Requires Improvement however all other GP providers in Rainham are rated good by the CQC (except Maritime Health Partnership who are awaiting inspection).
- 3.5 The latest general practice appointment figures, released by NHS England, show that 846,748 appointments were offered in Kent and Medway in December 2022 (the latest data we have).
- 3.6 The ICB have a Kent and Medway wide GP Development Plan which looks to provide focused support on the following areas:
- Improved access to primary medical care services
 - Better patient experience and communications
 - Support for Primary Care Network (PCN) development
 - Innovative plans on workforce, training, and development.
 - Ensuring strategic estate development.
 - Making best use of technology.

- Improve Quality and Safety of GP services.
Full details of the plan are available via the ICB website [Plans to improve primary care \(2022-2024\) :: NHS Kent and Medway \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk/plans-to-improve-primary-care-2022-2024)

3.7 Specifically, to Medway, the ICB have engaged with the GP Access Task Group led by Medway Council. This work looked to understand the issues with access to general practice in Medway and put in place some recommendations from Task Group members which would look to address those challenges. The ICB have and will continue to be committed to supporting this work to improve GP access.

3.8 There are three providers delivering services from the Healthy Living Centre (HLC):

- Orchard Family Practice (Red Suite) with 5044 registered patients.
- Maritime Health Partnership have a branch site in Yellow Suite (Church View). The practice serves 34,801 patients.
- Long Catlis Road Surgery have a branch site in the Blue Suite. This serves a population of 11,325. Long Catlis Road Surgery is proposing to close the branch surgery due to sustainability issues. This is out to consultation. The ICB is awaiting feedback from the consultation process.

3.9 With regard to underutilisation of HLC's, the ICB will be working with Medway Council and the Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership regarding opportunities to appropriately utilise HLCs and other estate.

3.10 The ICB have already facilitated a discussion for Councillor Potter with Maritime Health Partnership to discuss Yellow Suite and the Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership to discuss the broader issues around utilisation of the HLC.

4. Risk Management

4.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of this report.

5. Legal and Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial or legal implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of the report.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Committee is asked to note the comments from the Integrated Care Board provided in response to the Member's item.

Lead officer contact

Michael Turner, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01634 332817
E-mail: michael.turner@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to March 2021 Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee

Background papers

None