

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

**20 JUNE 2023**

### **KENT & MEDWAY INTEGRATED CARE BOARD COMMUNITY DERMATOLOGY SERVICES PROCUREMENT OUTCOMES**

Report from: Mark Atkinson Director of System Commissioning & Operational Planning, NHS Kent and Medway.

#### Summary

Further to the termination of the dermatology services contract for North Kent in 2020 and the award of an emergency contract for community dermatology services to the provider in West Kent, the then Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) decided in 2021 to reprocure the services, in line with procurement regulations (PCR 2015). This report summarises the outcomes of the procurement and seeks to give assurance to the HASC of service continuity to patients.

#### 1. Budget and policy framework

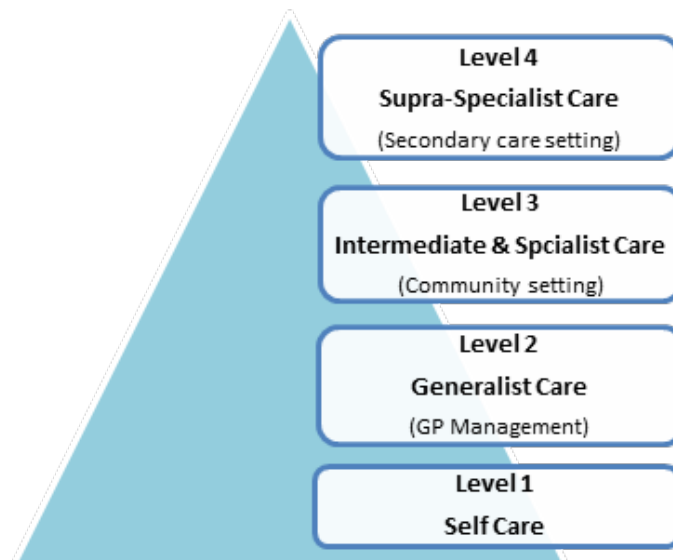
- 1.1. This report relates to health / social care policy and strategy.
- 1.2. Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision, and operation of the health 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

## 2. Background

2.1 NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) is responsible for commissioning dermatology services for the people of Kent and Medway. Dermatology covers all conditions that affect the skin, hair, and nails. The ICB reviews contracts on a regular basis to make sure they are value for money and provide the best patient care.

2.2 The different models of dermatology provision across the ICS are summarised below:

- In West and North Kent (including Medway), provision of Level 1-4 services (including those relating to 2ww services) are provided in the community by Sussex Community Dermatology Service.
- In East Kent, services are offered by several AQPs/GP Practices (Levels 1-3) and EKHUFT provide those relating to cancer services (2ww/Level 4).appendix



*Figure 1 Dermatology Services Levels 1 – 4*

2.3 The dermatology contracts in North & West and East Kent had previously been extended and, in compliance with procurement legislation, the CCG Board decision in 2021 was to re-procure both services under one standardised service specification and financial envelope per area with the intention of delivering:

- sustainable services, particularly for Medway,
- ensuring better value for money for existing services, and
- improving parts of the East Kent model.

### 3 Procurement Process and Outcomes

3.1 The ICB carried out a robust procurement process and the lessons learnt from the previous procurement were reflected in all aspects of the procurement including:

- Due diligence through robust governance and project management / Executive and Senior leadership oversight and management.
- Project team contains all ICB departments and therefore subject matter expertise, as well as LMC representation and access to patient perspective and experience.
- GP clinical leadership and Consultant Dermatologist independent leadership and subject matter expertise in place.
- Robust communications and engagement plan in place, including multiple methodologies covering extensive engagement with all stakeholders across the pathway landscape.
- Robust timetable across all procurement project activities and functions
- Ample mobilisation time scheduled, and a mobilisation team approach planned (mobilisation period allows adequate slippage across the life cycle of the project)
- Implementation and initial review team approach to be in place before handing over to a robust contract performance management approach for the remainder of the contract lifecycle.

3.2 A thorough process was conducted to develop the procurement documentation; this included the clinical service specifications, based on best practice as informed by the British Association of Dermatologists. The re-procurement exercise was conducted in line with The Public Contracts Regulations (2015). The intention was to award contracts for:

- North and West Kent (Levels 1-4) services, including cancer services; and
- East Kent (Levels 1-3) services, (not including Level 4 cancer services which are provided by EKHUFT).

3.3 Further to a robust and compliant process, involving a procurement and evaluation team, the ICB took the decision to remain with the current providers and not award any new contracts at this stage. The reasons for this were that:

- the contract that was on offer to run services in North and West Kent was not awarded due to bidder response which could not assure continued quality of care; and
- in East Kent, the ICB did not complete the procurement process. This was because the ICB felt that further consideration should be given to how it might contract for and procure a fully integrated dermatology service (Levels 1-4), redesigned to best meet patients' needs.

## 4 Next Steps

- 4.1 As a result, the ICB is undertaking a review of the service models across Kent and Medway to identify options for integrated dermatology services, including the optimised deployment of teledermatology services.
- 4.2 In the meantime, dermatology services in Kent and Medway will continue to be provided by current providers to ensure continuity of patient care. There is no backlog other than the new referrals entering the services and the providers are compliant with all national and local standards and the services are within performance targets for elective and cancer.
- 4.3 The existing contracts for community dermatology are in place until October 2023, aligned to the previous procurement timescales. The ICB is in the process of extending contractual arrangements to allow sufficient time for the next phase of this procurement.
- 4.4 A detailed revised procurement timetable is being developed including a full risk assessment and mitigation plan. This will be subject to regular review and update. Key risks and controls published on the ICB's risk register.

## 5 Risk management

- 5.1 There are no material risks arising from this report that will impact on the Council's ability to achieve its strategic objectives.

## 6 Consultation

- 6.1 Extensive consultation and engagement activities were carried including with the public/patients through a survey, followed by the creation of a patient reference group, including members of Healthwatch.

## 7 Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to Medway Council arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

## 8 Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications to Medway Council arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

## 9 Recommendation

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note this briefing.

## Lead officer contact

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## Appendices:

Appendix 1: Sussex Community Dermatology Service, Activity and Waiting List  
Summary for North Kent (including Medway) 2022/23

## Background papers

None