

Briefing Paper for Medway HASC

Request:

The Medway HASC requested a briefing note on the primary care estates strategy in Medway. This request was informed by feedback from a recent PCN (Primary Care Network) meeting where it was highlighted that a mental health worker was unable to operate out of all the GP sites in Rochester.

Concerns have also been raised by Medway PCNs around difficulties in finding space for staff being recruited under ARRS (additional roles reimbursement scheme for PCN roles).

Response:

As part of the Kent and Medway restructure, a dedicated Strategic Planning and Primary Care Estate function has been established in the Primary Care Team, this team is in the final stages of recruitment. As part of this team, a senior lead has been identified to work with the Medway and Swale localities.

It is acknowledged that there are short, medium and long terms plans required.

Short and Medium Term Plan

An assessment will be undertaken with PCNs regarding additional PCN roles with a focus on ensuring space is fully utilised in Healthy Living Centres to support the requirement.

NHS England and Improvement have produced a suite of guidance documents which will assist the CCG and PCNs in assessing additional space requirements to accommodate the additional staff. For an average PCN, around seven additional new full-time clinical support staff could be expected in 2020/21, rising to 20 full-time staff by April 2024.

There will be capacity within the Strategic Planning and Primary Care Estate team to support the Senior leads with the PCN focused programme of work including supporting review and sign off through the primary care governance.

Medium and Longer Term

A priority for the new team will be the development of a Kent and Medway GP Estate Strategy. This is complex piece of work and will involve a full review and refresh of all former CCG plans (informed by council Local Plans) along with a risk assessment and re-prioritisation of priority schemes across Kent and Medway (including financial planning and affordability assessments).

Engagement with all Primary Care Networks and GP Practices will be undertaken to inform this process and the final strategy and priorities across Kent and Medway.

As already detailed in the short term section, consideration of Primary Care Network requirements (using the recent guidance issued by NHS England and Improvement) will also form part of this work along with the digital impact assessment.

Healthy Living Centres will be a core part of the assessment, along with all NHS and healthcare system partner estate; a detailed review will be undertaken in order to inform the future strategy.

The timeline for the piece of work is to be confirmed via the CCG Primary Care Co-Commissioning Committee in due course and will be informed by the re-structure timeline and resource in place following this.

End.