

Subject:		Development of an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at the Royal Sussex County Hospital	
Date of Meeting:		26 June 2019	
Report of:		Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law (Monitoring Officer)	
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Ward(s) affected:		(All Wards);	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**Glossary:**

NHS 111: The NHS non-emergency medical helpline

UTC: Urgent Treatment Centre – a walk-in and bookable urgent care service for minor injury and illness providing an alternative to attendance at A&E. Appointments are directly bookable via NHS111

UCC: Urgent Care Centre – similar to a UTC but without the ability to direct book appointments through NHS111

RSCH: Royal Sussex County Hospital – local acute hospital

CCG: Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group – NHS commissioners for Brighton & Hove.

SViS: Substantial Variation in Service – NHS bodies are legally required to consult with HOSCs when planning to make substantial changes or improvements to local health services.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report provides information on NHS plans to open an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) co-located with the Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH) A&E. More information on the UTC, provided by the CCG, is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the information on the UTC provided by the CCG; and
- 2.2 Agrees that plans to develop a UTC *do not* constitute a Substantial Variation in Service (SViS) requiring formal consultation with the HOSC.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In March 2017, the NHS published *Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View*, the implementation plan for the 2014 *NHS Five Year Forward Vision* (the NHS's strategic development plan for 2014-19). Included in *Next Steps* is a commitment to roll-out UTCs across England by the end of 2019.
 - 3.2 UTCs are defined as centres which are at a minimum “open 12 hours a day, seven days a week, integrated with local urgent care services. They offer patients who do not need hospital accident and emergency care, treatment by clinicians with access to diagnostic facilities that will usually include an X-ray machine” (*Next Steps* p16). UTCs are intended to support urgent care services, helping to reduce the number of inappropriate A&E attendances.
 - 3.3 The requirement for UTCs to be “integrated with local urgent care services” should be interpreted as requiring UTCs to be co-located with acute hospitals wherever practicable.
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- 3.4 **Substantial Variation in Service (SViS).** The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 require NHS bodies planning to make substantial service changes to engage with local HOSCs on their plans. There is no statutory definition of what constitutes a SViS; generally this is determined by local HOSCs after dialogue with relevant NHS bodies.
- 3.5 In some localities, developing a UTC is likely to be viewed as SViS because it will entail significant changes to local services or the development of a new service where none currently exists. However, in Brighton & Hove, there is already an Urgent Care Centre (UCC) co-located with RSCH A&E which provides most of the services required of a UTC. The plan is to transform the existing UCC into a UTC. This will require some current services being enhanced, but these will be essentially minor changes. Given that it is a national NHS requirement to roll-out UTCs across England, and given that the guidance is that UTCs should be co-located with urgent care services (i.e. hospital A&E departments) wherever possible, it is difficult to see what practical form SViS consultation over the development of a Brighton & Hove UTC could take. In some localities there has been meaningful discussion as to which of several potential sites should be used, but in Brighton & Hove the only feasible location is on the RSCH site, where a very similar service is already operating. In consequence, the officer recommendation is that the Brighton & Hove UTC plan should not be considered a SViS.
- 3.6 Members may also be concerned that the UTC plans could impact on other walk-in services in the city: e.g. the walk-in centre located near Brighton Station. The CCG has assured the HOSC that this is not the case: any changes to the walk-in centre are entirely independent of the development of a UTC. The walk-in centre has had its funding confirmed for 2019-20, and will be reviewed in coming months in the context of reviewing the primary urgent care offer. The outcome of this review will be brought to the HOSC as a paper.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Members could decide that UTC plans *do* constitute a SViS, *and* that more comprehensive consultation with the HOSC is required. However, given that the development of a UTC is largely a prescribed process, it is unclear what the focus of consultation would be.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None in preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members are asked to note NHS plans to develop a UTC at RSCH and agree that the plans do not constitute a Substantial Variation in Service (SViS). This does not preclude the HOSC from receiving further updates as this initiative progresses.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications for Brighton & Hove City Council arising from the recommendations of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 21/06/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The recommendations are not considered to generate any implications of a legal nature other than those noted in the body of the Report.

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 19/06/19

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None directly concerning this decision. UTCs are intended to provide a better level of care for people needing urgent care within Brighton and Hove. This may benefit people who struggle to access services currently – e.g. people who are not registered with a GP (which may disproportionately feature people from BAME backgrounds, recent immigrants or people experiencing homelessness). If successful, UTCs will reduce pressures on A&E departments to the benefit of those people who have the greatest legitimate need to access A&E, including some people with disabilities/long-term health conditions. It should be noted that an Urgent Care Centre (UCC) is already in operation at RSCH, and as this undertakes most of the functions of a UTC, the impact of opening a UTC is likely to be limited.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None directly concerning this decision.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None identified.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Information provided by Brighton & Hove CCG

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View (NHS 2017) [LINK](#)
2. NHS Five Year Forward Vision (NHS 2014) [LINK](#)