

Draft

QEQM HOSPITAL A&E REVIEW TASK & FINISH GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 2013/14

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE

General

The purpose of the task & finish group is to review matters related to the operation of the QEQM Hospital's Accidents and Emergency Services in response to a petition referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel by Full Council on 5 December 2013.

Membership, Chairmanship and Quorum

Number of Members	Seven
Political Composition	3 Labour 3 Conservative 1 Independent Group
Substitute Members Permitted	Yes
Political Balance Rules apply	No
Appointments/Removals from Office	By the Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Restrictions on Membership	Non-Executive Members only
Restrictions on Chairmanship	None
Quorum	Four
Co-option Arrangements	None
Number of ordinary meetings per Council Year	Meetings will be called as required and as reflected in the work programme below

Terms of reference

The full terms of reference for the task & finish group are given below. The scope of the group for 2013/14 will be specifically to:

1. To investigate the process currently adopted by East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) in the provision of trauma services, including how choices are made regarding the transfer of trauma unit patients;
2. To investigate the process for undertaking major changes to trauma services, including the way in which public consultation is undertaken ; and if public consultation is not undertaken, and the way in which urgent decisions are taken and who is informed;
3. To investigate how a public body like Thanet District Council is informed in cases where there will be no public consultation on a health delivery services decision that is significant to the local community; and how public/stakeholders views are taken into consideration;

4. To investigate whether and how accessibility issues are taken into consideration when making health delivery decisions (for example, the ability of relatives/friends to visit trauma units some distance from Thanet);
5. To investigate the pattern of visits to the Accidents & Emergencies Department at QEQM Hospital, to explore whether there are “repeat patients”, and if so, the factors that might contribute to that, and how it might be avoided;
6. To investigate whether the funding profile of the health delivery service is one of the main driving factors behind the rationalisation exercise of emergency services in East Kent, or what the clinical justification is;
7. To produce a final report with recommendations for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and if appropriate to Cabinet for forwarding to the EKHUFT Board.

Delegations

None

Notes

This task & finish group was established in principle by the decision of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 14 January 2014 in response to a petition referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel by Full Council on 5 December 2013. A report by the Panel would be forwarded to Full Council for noting.