

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Impact assessment for reconfiguring maternity and paediatric services



ORH'S APPROACH

ORH consultants experienced in assessing hospital service reconfiguration took an integrated analysis and modelling approach to quantify the impact of the proposed changes. ORH's sophisticated travel-time model, validated against actual journey times to hospital to ensure accuracy, was used to assess the impact on those arriving by ambulance and both private and public transport. Face-to-face meetings with trust managers at key stages of the study ensured that outputs met their requirements.

THE CHALLENGE

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) was considering options for reconfiguring the provision of maternity and paediatric services across West Kent. MTW identified a need to assess the impact of the proposed changes on patient access and patient flows. ORH was commissioned to undertake an impact assessment to include patients arriving by all modes of transport, including ambulance, private transport and public transport.

RESULTS

Current and future configurations of hospital services were modelled to produce full travel-time distributions, and a comparison carried out to reveal the impact of the proposed changes. The impact of the redistribution of affected patients on neighbouring hospitals' workloads was assessed in detail, and minimum and maximum numbers of additional patient episodes were produced for each hospital providing the same specialised services.



KEY BENEFITS

- A proven evidence-based approach that withstood internal and external scrutiny
- Results presented in a clear and transparent manner, allowing the trust to engage effectively with stakeholders
- Patient flow modelling results used to support the development of robust capacity plans for each affected hospital site



The Strategic Management Board welcomed ORH's in-depth analysis and skilled demonstration of their findings. The service would highly recommend the services provided by ORH and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

Ashley Scarff, Director of Corporate Services, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust



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