

Focus on Community Care: Community Hub Operating Centers in the United Kingdom

This flagship example from the UK shows a compelling case for integrated social and healthcare, with a high return on investment. This project is based in Kent and brings together 14 general practices under the multi-specialty community care provider called Encompass. MedTech Europe's Community Care group calls for better patient care and more attention to the community setting. For more information visit www.medtecheurope.org

Integrated social and health care in Kent

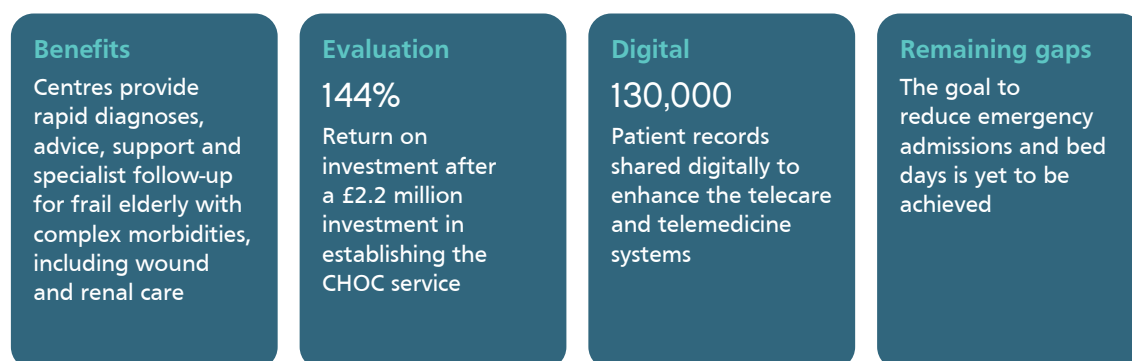
The UK's healthcare system is inherently fragmented between social and healthcare services – much more than the rest of the EU. To address these new social and economic challenges, the National Health Service (NHS) England introduced a Five-Year strategy in 2016.

As part of this, a pilot project in Kent created Community Hub Operating Centres (CHOCs), with the objective of integrating various aspects of health and social care in one place to better serve their community. Each CHOC integrated previously fragmented healthcare disciplines, including general practices, preventive services, nursing and social care.

The objective of the project was to bring economic benefits to the healthcare system. It reduces strains on long-term home care, decreases the number of emergency admissions and improves self-care for patients at home.



What does this mean for the healthcare system?



REFERENCES

1. Billings, Jenny R. and Jaswal, Sabrena K. and Mikelyte, Rasa and Roberts, Ian and Rees-Roberts, Melanie (2018), <https://kar.kent.ac.uk/67565/>
2. NHS (2019), <https://www.england.nhs.uk/new-care-models/>

