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Date:

Dear Member

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FRIDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2010**

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Friday, 3 September 2010 meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda No    Item**

4.    **Update on SECAmb's Make Ready Programme (Pages 1 - 6)**
  
6.    **Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Update (Pages 7 - 16)**

Yours sincerely



**Peter Sass**  
**Head of Democratic Services & Local Leadership**

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**Item 4: Update on SECamb's Make Ready Programme: Additional Information from Dover District Council**

Minutes of the meeting of the SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) Committee held on Monday 16 August 2010 at the Council Offices, Whitfield on at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor G J Hood

Councillors: A Friend  
D R Lloyd-Jones  
J F Tranter  
R S Walkden

Also Present: Mr Geraint Davies (Director of Corporate Affairs and Service Development, South East Coast Ambulance Service)  
Mr Geoff Catling (Director of Technical Services and Logistics, South East Coast Ambulance Service)  
Mr Chris Stamp (Senior Operations Manager)

Officer: Democratic Support Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C M Edwards, L A Keen, P A Lodge, S C Manion, V J Revell and J C Record.

The Democratic Support Officer advised the Committee that an apology for absence had been received from the Portfolio Holder for Health and Public Protection, Councillor P G Heath.

162 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules, Councillor J F Tranter had been appointed as substitute for Councillor V J Revell.

163 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic Support Officer reported that there had been no applications for public speaking at the meeting.

164 'MAKE READY' AMBULANCE SERVICE REORGANSIATION

#### **Item 4: Update on SECAMB's Make Ready Programme: Additional Information from Dover District Council**

The Committee received a presentation from representatives of South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) on the 'Make Ready' changes being implemented at Ashford and how they would change the ambulance service in Dover.

A letter from the Revered Peter Shered was also circulated to the members of the Committee for their information.

It was stated that the objective of the 'Make Ready' initiative was to improve infection control; reduce risk to staff, vehicles and equipment; enable resources to be used more flexibly and effectively; and reinvest efficiencies generated in front line services such as staff and clinical developments.

The location of the 'Make Ready' depots close to East Kent's acute hospitals in Ashford and Thanet was deliberate, as the majority of ambulance responses would end at these hospitals and it would permit ambulance crews to quickly restock equipment or replace vehicles as necessary before returning to the network of Ambulance Community Response Posts (ACRP) in the local community. The new ACRP's would enable SECAMB to replace its existing ageing physical infrastructure, the majority of which (68%) predated 1974 with a modern, flexible and more appropriately located infrastructure.

The 'Make Ready' depots would have dedicated facilities for ambulance maintenance and deep cleansing.

Currently, ambulance crews were required to clean their own vehicles, which was not as efficient as using specialist cleansing staff and reduced the amount of time that ambulances were available for use. The deep cleansing of an ambulance took 8 hours and would be performed at the 'Make Ready' depot

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unlike the current situation where vehicles had to be sent away to undergo a deep cleansing.

By providing sufficient vehicles to cope with demand of 141% of the expected level there would be sufficient spare vehicle capacity to cover the removal of vehicles from use for cleansing. A 'Make Ready' station would have 21 ambulances and nine response cars, of which at peak times 14 ambulances and six response cars would be operational. In the United States of America where the 'Make Ready' system had been operational for longer, they operated to a 133% capacity.

The Committee was reassured that whilst the 'Make Ready' depot was outside of the District, it would not impact on response times as ambulances would in most cases be responding from locations such as the ACRP stations to incidents.

The introduction of two ACRP's in the District – Dover South and Dover North (based at Whitfield) would also improve the response time for ambulances to rural areas around Dover. Each ACRP would accommodate one ambulance crew of two people and one response vehicle with a crew of one. It was emphasised to the committee that the replacement of the existing ambulance station with two ACRP's would not result in any reduction of capacity and would in actuality put more resources into the area.

The Committee was advised that if the current Dover Station site were to be developed as part of larger redevelopment of the area and SECamb's were to be offered a location on that larger site then it would want to retain that option if it offered and it made sense in terms of response times. However, the Trust was committed to developing ACRPs within Dover to meet the needs of local patients.

**Item 4: Update on SECamb's Make Ready Programme: Additional Information from Dover District Council**

In response to a question from Councillor A Friend, the Committee was assured that the Dover North ACRP did not replace Deal Ambulance Station.

It was stated that regular vehicle maintenance undertaken on site by trained mechanics would reduce the number of vehicle hours lost due to breakdowns and the operational life of the vehicle would be extended.

The 'Make Ready' depots would also equip all ambulances to an agreed uniform design so that crews knew where vital medical equipment was in an emergency regardless of which vehicle they were operating from. The replacing of a link between a crew and a specific ambulance with a uniformly laid out and equipped set of vehicles meant that it would be possible for crews to switch vehicles mid-shift in the event that an ambulance needed to be taken out of service for cleansing and restocking following an emergency response.

The Committee was advised that the current ambulance fleet was on average three years and two months old and were all the same type of Mercedes vehicle.

RESOLVED:(a) That the Cabinet be asked to note that the South East Coast Ambulance Service 'Make Ready' initiative was supported by the Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee by reason of the following perceived benefits:

- (i) The assurance from South East Coast Ambulance Service that there would be no diminution of service in Dover as a result of the 'Make Ready' initiative.

**Item 4: Update on SECamb's Make Ready Programme: Additional Information from Dover District Council**

- (ii) The assurance from South East Coast Ambulance Service that the replacement of the existing Dover Ambulance Station with a Dover South Ambulance Community Response Post (ACRP) on the existing site and a new Dover North ACRP at Whitfield would not reduce the number of ambulances operating from Dover.
  - (iii) The assurance from South East Coast Ambulance Service that the 'Make Ready' initiative would not adversely impact on response times for Category A (life threatening) and Category B (urgent) responses.
  - (iv) The improved infection control through the use of specialist cleansing staff.
  - (v) The introduction of a standardised specification for drugs and equipment that might be needed in a medical emergency on board the ambulance.
  - (vi) The improved response time to rural parts of the district through the introduction of the Dover North ACRP based at Whitfield.
- (b) That the Cabinet be urged to work with South East Coast Ambulance Service to raise awareness of the 'Make Ready' initiative and what it would mean for the people of Dover and the surrounding area.

**Item 4: Update on SECamb's Make Ready Programme: Additional Information from Dover District Council**

- (c) That the Cabinet be asked to note the intention of the Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee to visit a working 'Make Ready' station to observe the initiative in action and that an invitation would be extended to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Public Protection to accompany the Committee.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.



**Item 6**

By: Godfrey Horne MBE - Chairman

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 September 2010

Subject: Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Update.

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**Summary**

This report sets out for the Committees information the ongoing events/dialogue on the implementation of the Women's and Children's Services within the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

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**1. Introduction**

(1) This report sets out for the Committee's information the ongoing stakeholder events being conducted by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority as commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley CBE in which he has asked for a report to be presented to him by the end of September 2010 having engaged with stakeholders again on the ten issues of referral made by the Committee which are subject to local assessment and resolution.

(2) Mr Lansley's letter made it clear that this further assessment and report should not prejudice the work to open the Pembury Hospital as planned, nor the current work in establishing services there.

(3) However, the Committee will note that Mr Lansley's letter was silent about the provision of Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone Hospital. There remains considerable objection from the public of Maidstone and the surrounding area on the Women's and Children's services which will remain at Maidstone Hospital.

(4) Members of the Committee will be aware of the ongoing stakeholder events at which Members of the Committee (if they have been able to do so during the holiday period) have been invited to attend as observers (see Appendix 1). These stakeholder events will culminate in a meeting of a Co-Design Group" with stakeholders taking place at the Hop Farm, Beltring on 22 September at which Members of this Committee will be invited to observe.

**2. Progress since the last Meeting of the Committee – 23 July 2010**

(1) The Committee will recall that at the conclusion of the Committees last meeting it was agreed that I should send a further letter to the Secretary of State for Health following consultation on its content with Members of the Committee.

(2) After discussions with the spokesmen the attached letter was sent to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Committee (see Appendix 2).

## Item 6

(3) It will be recalled that one of the ten issues of referral made by the Committee related to "Transport" and in particular the highway infrastructure particularly the A228 connecting Maidstone and Pembury and the dualling of the A21 from Tonbridge to Pembury. I have written to the Highways Agency and the Cabinet Member for the County Council Mr N Chard about these issues. Attached for the Committee's information are the letters I have received to date (see Appendix 3).

(4) Elected Members from both the County Council and Maidstone Borough Council are organising a public meeting on the provision of Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone Hospital at the Maidstone Leisure Centre on Thursday 9 September at 7.15pm.

### 3. New Criteria

The Committee are reminded that in his response to the Committee's referral the Secretary of State for Health indicated that he wanted the reconfiguration of Women's and Children's Services for the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to reflect these new criteria for reconfiguration proposals:

- a. support from GP commissioners;
- b. strengthened public and patient engagement;
- c. clarity on the clinical evidence base; and
- d. consistency with current and prospective patient choice.

### 4. Next Steps

(1) I am aware that through the stakeholder events, e-mail correspondence, the press and the media new issues are arising relating to the new criteria the Secretary of State has asked should be addressed in implementing these reconfiguration proposals.

(2) I am therefore proposing that an additional meeting of this Committee is held on Monday 20 September to consider what, if any, comments it wishes to make to the Secretary of State for Health for inclusion in the report he has asked to be prepared by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority.

### 5. Recommendations:

The Committee are asked to receive the report and note the additional meeting of the Committee on Monday, 20 September 2010.

Paul Wickenden,  
Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager.

**Directorate of Strategy and Communications**
**Women & Children's Services at Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**
**Implementation Co-design Events and Telephone Interviews**
**Focus Groups (15 groups to date)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Patient Experience Committee (MTW)	2 August	15.30 – 17.00	Maidstone Hospital
NCT Maidstone	10 August	10.00 – 11.30	Preston Hall (Larkfield Ward - Room 1)
NCT Tonbridge	10 August	20.00 – 21.00	15 Rowan Shaw, Tonbridge (NCT member's home)
Health Network	11 August	11.00 – 13.00	Wharf House - Tonbridge
Midwives (MTW)	13 August	10.00 – 11.30	Preston Hall (Larkfield Ward - Room 1)
Kent LINK	13 August	11.30 – 13.00	Preston Hall (Larkfield Ward - Room 1)
MSLC	13 August	14.00 – 15.30	Preston Hall (Larkfield Ward - Room 1)
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	20 August	09.00 -11.00	Romney Classroom Maidstone Hospital
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	23 August	10.00 – 12.00	Seminar Room Pembury Hospital
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	24 August	10.00 – 12.00	Romney Classroom Maidstone Hospital
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	25 August	10.00 – 12.00	Seminar Room Pembury Hospital
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	26 August	10.00 – 12.00	Seminar Room Pembury Hospital
Nursing and Midwifery staff Women and Children's Directorates MTW	27 August	10.00 – 12.00	Romney Classroom Maidstone Hospital
Paddock Wood & Cranbrook Children's Centres	7 September	10.00 – 11.30	The Wesley Centre, Paddock Wood
Little Forest Children's Centre	17 September	10.00 – 12.00	Tunbridge Wells

### Implementation Co-design Event

Group	Date	Time	
Co-design Large Stakeholder Event	22 September	13.00 – 17.00	Hop farm -Paddock Wood

### Information Meetings

Group	Date	Time	Venue
Maidstone Borough Council	26 July	10.30 – 12.00	MBC Council Halls
Maidstone Borough Council	11 August	10.30 – 12.00	MBC Council Halls

## Appendix 2

**Godfrey Horne MBE**  
**Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**Member for Tonbridge**  
**44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB**

The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2NS

2 August 2010

Dear Secretary of State

### **Womens and Childrens Services – Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**

I am in receipt of your reply to the referral sent to you on the Womens and Childrens Services – Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust by my Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This was reported in full to my recent Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, complete with the advice you had received from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. Some Members of my Committee with their County divisions in the Maidstone area expressed their bitter disappointment. They were not mindful to accept that all the 10 points raised with you had been properly addressed. I believe you will be aware of their disquiet and that their thoughts will have been brought to your attention by the new Member of Parliament for Maidstone & The Weald, Helen Grant. It would seem most likely that they will be arranging public meetings in the Maidstone area to explore any opportunity that there may be to retain some of the Maternity Services that are due to be changed in Maidstone or transferred to new Pembury Hospital in Tunbridge Wells.

My Health Overview Scrutiny Committee is formed of a wide variety of Elected Members from across the County of Kent who reflect the views of those local people who elect them. This Committee is disappointed that in referring these matters to you that your reply to me is not bringing closure on the issues as had been hoped.

Can I assure you that in moving forward we will seek to ensure that the 4 criteria you have asked to be taken into account in any Reconfiguration of Women's and Children's Services are borne in mind by the Strategic Health Authority in the report back to you which you have requested. We do not believe that all the 10 points raised as the basis for this Committee's referral have been adequately dealt. Indeed, some of these issues are not local matters e.g. the dualling of the A21.

We will do all that we can to ensure that the requirements identified in your letter are carried out in full and will let you have any evidence / detail that can be provided to show that there is a genuine call to ameliorate reduction of services as planned in the Maidstone area realising that any such evidence will need to be clinically based.

## **Appendix 2**

Yours sincerely

**Godfrey Horne MBE**

Chairman

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Appendix 3

*Godfrey Horne MBE*  
*Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee*  
*Member for Tonbridge*  
*44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB*

Mr Graham Link  
Project Manager  
Highways Agency  
Federated House  
London Road  
Dorking  
Surrey RH4 1SZ

13 August 2010

Dear Mr Link

### **Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells**

You will be aware of the local public interest presently focussed on the plans proposed for the Reconfiguration of Health Services in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells area pending the opening of the new PFI Hospital at Pembury.

Highway issues are a major concern and I write to ask for clarification as to the up-to-date position regarding the A21 proposals to duelling that section of the road between Castle Hill, Tonbridge and the roundabout at Longfield Road.

Highway issues were one of the 10 items identified by my Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when referring this matter recently to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

Your help in providing relevant information would be much appreciated and would assist my Committee when answering questions which may be asked of this matter at this present time.

Yours sincerely

**Godfrey Horne MBE**  
Chairman  
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Chris Bacon  
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Federated House  
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Dorking RH4 1SZ

Direct Line: 01306 878448

Mr Godfrey Horne,  
Chairman : Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Kent County Council  
Members Suite  
Sessions House,  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

17 August 2010

Dear Mr Horne

**A21 TONBRIDGE – PEMBURY DUALLING**

Thank you for your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> August to Graham Link relating to the Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and requesting details of the current position with the above scheme

Draft Orders to authorise the route of the dual carriageway improvement, the consequential alterations to the local side road network and the compulsory acquisition of land were published on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009. At that time it was anticipated that if the scheme was approved, construction could start towards the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012 and be completed by the end of 2013.

The draft Orders were open for objection and comment until 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and as a consequence of objections received, the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Communities and Local Government decided to hold a Public Inquiry which was planned to commence on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010. However at the end of May it was announced that the Department of Transport's 2010/11 budget had been reduced and this was followed on 10<sup>th</sup> June by an announcement by the Secretaries of State that the Public Inquiry for the scheme was to be postponed and the scheme reviewed in the Government Spending Review in the Autumn.

Details of the review are expected to be announced towards the end of October. In the meantime further details of the scheme are available on the Highways Agency's website at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4003.aspx>

Yours sincerely



Chris Bacon  
MP South Project Manager - Dorking  
Email: [chris.bacon@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.bacon@highways.gsi.gov.uk)



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Dear Councillor Horne,

23 AUG 2010

Thank you for your letter of the 2 August 2010.

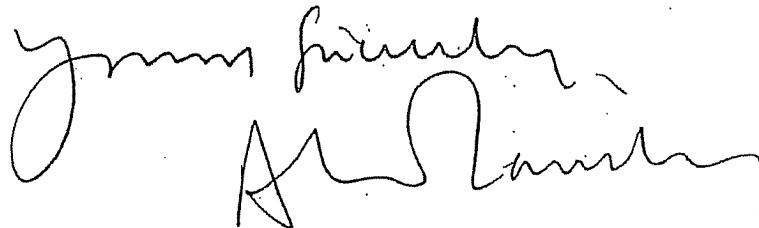
I am aware that as you mention in your letter, Maidstone based members of Kent County Council will meet in public with NHS South East Coast, PCT and trust representatives on 9 September 2010. I hope this will be a constructive opportunity to discuss the changes as they proceed to implementation.

As you know, I have asked NHS South East Coast to report to me at the end of September 2010.

In this report, I will expect NHS South East Coast to reflect upon the views of your committee. As you are aware, strengthened public and local authority engagement is a key part of the four tests I expect all planned and ongoing service reconfigurations to meet.

As you point out, your committee has representation from across Kent and I am keen to ensure that the interests of the whole population in West Kent affected by these changes are best served as implementation proceeds.

You raise the issue of the A21 dualling. I am assured by local NHS organisations that adequate access to the Pembury hospital site is not dependent on any planned road developments. As you may be aware, the Chair of Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has written to me on this issue and I have noted his and your concerns.



ANDREW LANSLEY CBE

**Godfrey Horne MBE**  
**Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**Member for Tonbridge**  
**44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB**

Nick Chard  
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste  
c/o Members' Desk  
Sessions House  
County Hall

13 August 2010

Dear Nick

**Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells**

You will be aware of the local public interest presently focussed on the plans proposed for the Reconfiguration of Health Services in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells area pending the opening of the new PFI Hospital at Pembury.

Highway issues are a major concern and I write to ask for clarification as to the up-to-date position regarding possible improvements to the A228 between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, including the Colts Hill Bypass, planned for the next 5 to 10 years.

This issue was one of the 10 items identified by my Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when referring this matter recently to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

Your help in providing relevant information would be much appreciated and would assist my Committee when answering questions which may be asked of this matter at this present time.

A similar request for information is being sent to the Highways Agency for up-to-date information on the A21 proposals to dual that section of the road between Castle Hill, Tonbridge and the roundabout at Longfield Road.

Yours sincerely

**Godfrey Horne MBE**  
Chairman  
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

cc: David Brazier  
Alan Marsh  
Paul Wickenden