MAIDSTONE DIVISION

BMA

Hon. Secretary: Dr Roger Hart
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Mrs Candy Morris,
Chief Executive,
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority,
York House,
18-20 Massetts Rd.,
Horley,
Surrey RH6 7DE

4th September 2010

Dear Mrs Morris,

Re: Women's and Children's Services and Reconfiguration

As hon. secretary of the Maidstone Division of the BMA, I have been asked to write and inform you formally as to how the Division feels about the proposed reconfiguration of women's and children's services. The executive felt that it would be wrong just to give their views on the reconfiguration as they might not be representative of all members of the profession. The GPs had informed the executive that they had not been consulted on this matter.

Thus it was decided earlier this summer that the division would carry out a survey of all GPs, whether or not they were members of the BMA. The results of this survey have been widely publicised in the media. There was a 77% response rate. This was quite remarkable as the survey was undertaken in holiday time! It also showed that 97% of the GPs voted against the proposed reconfiguration. This incontrovertible result must surely mean that the proposed move to Pembury Hospital of the obstetric and paediatric units cannot possibly go ahead in today's climate.

The Maidstone Division of the BMA most strongly opposes the proposed reconfiguration of women's and children's services.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Hart   (Hon. Secretary)

Copy to:
Mr Glenn Douglas, Chief Executive, MTW NHS Trust, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone. Kent. ME16 9QQ
Mr Steve Phoenix, Chief Executive, West Kent PCT, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Rd., Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1RE
Cllr Godfrey Horne, Chairman of KCC, HOSC, KCC, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ
Cllr Paulina Stockell, Chairman of Maidstone Borough Council External Scrutiny Committee, 5-11 London Road Maidstone. ME16 8HR
Helen Grant MP
MASH Chairman