



West Kent

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By E-mail

Cllr Godfrey Horne
Chairman
Kent Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Direct Dial Number: 01732 375276
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cc: Paul Wickenden

8 September 2010

Dear Godfrey

I'm writing following the meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee last Friday, 3 September.

I understand that there was some confusion amongst the Councillors about the public engagement process the NHS in West Kent is currently undertaking in respect of changes to Women & Children's Services in the south of our patch. For the avoidance of doubt I wish to emphasise again that we are actively working to engage as wide an audience as possible and this includes, as you know, dialogue with your own Committee and direct meetings with both Maidstone Borough Council and MASH.

HOSC Members have an open invitation to observe any or all of the processes of engagement we are undertaking and indeed to date Councillors have attended 8 out of the 13 focus groups that have taken place. The meeting on 22 September is an open event for all who wish to attend. Invitations have been sent directly to key stakeholders including Maidstone Borough Council, MASH (who have declined any involvement in the process) and Kent County Council. Of course we have also invited a wide range of clinicians, patient representatives and local authorities. I would like once again to extend an invitation to your Members to engage in the co-design process and to attend this meeting if they wish, as observers or participants.

In addition to direct invitations we have widely publicised opportunities for engagement through the local media and other channels including our own Health Network, which has over 800 members, and the Kent LINK. We have also run a campaign in conjunction with the Kent Messenger to invite people to submit any questions or comments they have for the NHS to respond to.

I understand some of your Members felt that our engagement has not been as inclusive and open as they would like. I would categorically deny this; further, I would invite all your Members to publicise as widely as they can the opportunities that are available to their constituents. If it would be helpful I can supply you with information leaflets for your Members to distribute. I would also be more than happy to supply you with lists of



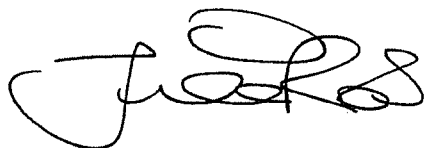
those people we've approached and have responded to invitations to get involved in the process.

I should be grateful if you would once again publicise the meeting on 22nd September to your Members – it will take place between 1 – 5 p.m. at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood. This will be the forum where we draw together the wide range of feedback we have received and the issues that have been raised through focus groups, 1:1 interviews and the various meetings we've attended, and with stakeholders jointly build solutions to the key issues and risks identified. I would be grateful if you could confirm who will be attending from the HOSC for catering purposes; you may either let me know directly or e-mail Emma Cain (emma.cain@wkpct.nhs.uk) who is organising the event.

Finally, if there are specific individuals or groups Members of your Committee feel have not been invited or involved sufficiently we would be more than happy to approach them directly to ensure they have an opportunity to participate in these important discussions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

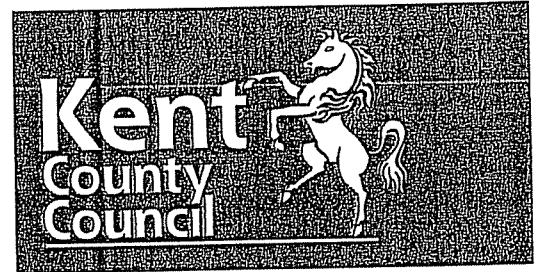
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Ross', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Julia Ross

Director of Strategy & Communications

Executive Lead for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Social & Self Care

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



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9 September 2010

Dear Julia

Women & Children's Services

Thank you for your e-mail as of 8 September with the details it contained.

I am most grateful to you for confirming that the meeting to be held at the Hop Farm on 22 September is open to all Members of my Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

If you would be kind enough to send some pamphlets that you may have on this meeting to Paul Wickenden here at County Hall then I will be in a position to distribute those to any Members who are attending my HOSC meeting set for the 20 September.

In the meantime I am asking that confirmation that my Members may attend your 22 September meeting is sent to all Members of HOSC so that there can be no doubt that they may attend if they so wish.

With my best wishes and thanks.

Yours sincerely

PP Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

cc: Paul Wickenden



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