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To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8 October 2010

Subject: Intended Outcomes: Pain Management Services.

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## **1. Background**

- (1) In previous discussions that the Committee has had about different ways to restructure and refocus the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one of the recurring themes has been that the Committee's meetings should be more focused on the outcomes it would like to achieve. Another has been the need to make the work of the Committee more accessible to members of the public.
- (2) This paper is intended to be a way to progress towards achieving these twin aims. The questions in Section 2 are the ones submitted to invitees in advance of the meeting.

## **2. Questions**

- (1) To NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent:
  1. How high a priority is the development of chronic pain services within your health economy?
  2. What are the main challenges in delivering effective pain services within your health economy?
  3. What assessment has been made about the numbers of people suffering from chronic pain in Kent?
  4. What pain services are currently available within Kent in:
    - a. Primary and community care settings?
    - b. Secondary care?
  5. How many people access pain services, including tertiary, outside of Kent?
  6. What services are available to assist patients with the psychological aspects of pain?
  7. What facilities are there for assisting patients in managing their own condition?
  8. Are there any plans to develop or change any of the services currently available?

Item 5 – Intended Outcomes

9. Specifically, is there a date agreed for the re-opening of a Pain Clinic in Maidstone?
  10. The Chief Medical Officers Annual Report 2008 contained 8 recommendations relating to pain services. Has any formal response to these recommendations been made by your PCT and has any work been carried out locally to action any of the recommendations?
- (2) To the LINK:
1. What information has the Kent LINK received concerning the provision of pain services in Kent?
  2. Has the Kent LINK been involved in any work with the NHS in developing pain services?
- (3) To the Kent Local Medical Committee:
1. What are the main challenges in delivering effective pain services within Kent?

**3. Recommendations**

- (a) The Committee is asked to assess whether the outcomes in section 2 above have been achieved or if further information on this topic is required by the Committee.