

The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP  
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Date: 21 September 2010

Dear Secretary of State,

### Women's and Children's Services - Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

As Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Kent County Council, I am writing to inform you that Members of the Committee have taken the opportunity of considering the Four New Tests which you have directed to be applied to any new reconfiguration of services:-

- (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.

They have also observed the stakeholder events organised on behalf of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority as directed by yourself together with the sole public meeting organised by Members of the County Council and Borough Council who represent Maidstone whose residents wish to see Women's and Children's Services retained at Maidstone Hospital.

My Committee met on 20 September and resolved that:-

- (a) "this report and the minute of this meeting are included as an unaltered addendum to the report the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority is preparing from the Secretary of State for Health;

Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor  
Director of Law & Governance

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

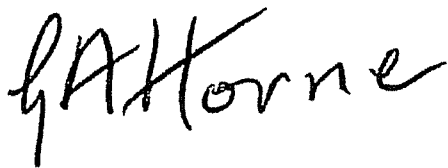


- (b) in a separate letter to the Secretary of State for Health The Chairman will request that he instigates a full review of this reconfiguration by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel or takes the decision himself to resolve the issue for the residents of Kent and in particular Maidstone and the surrounding area; and
- (c) this Committee (which serves all the residents of Kent) support the residents of Maidstone and the surrounding area for the retention of consultant led Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone Hospital and asks that a decision is taken as soon as possible in the best interest of the people of Kent."

I am enclosing a copy of the report on which my Committee passed this resolution. The draft Minutes of the meeting of 20 September are also enclosed, although these will remain a draft until they are approved by the Committee on 8 October 2010.

I would respectfully request that a final decision is made as soon as possible to bring closure to this matter so that the residents of Maidstone can move on.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Godfrey Horne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'H'.

**Godfrey Horne MBE**  
**Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Kent County Council**