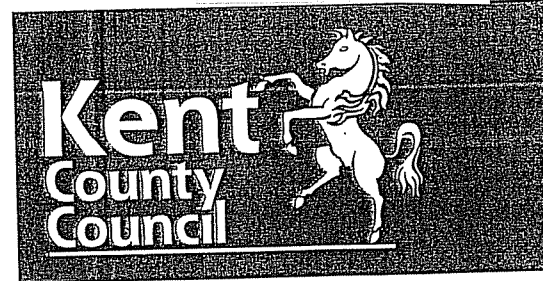


Godfrey Horne MBE
 Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 Member for Tonbridge
 44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB



Mr Guy Boersma
 Director of Commissioning & System Development
 NHS South East Coast
 York House
 18-20 Massetts Road
 Horley
 Surrey RH6 7DE

Members' Suite
 Sessions House
 County Hall
 Maidstone
 Kent ME14 1XQ
 Tel: 01622 694434
 Fax: 01622 694212
 E-mail: members.desk@kent.gov.uk

16 September 2010

Dear Guy

Thank you for your letter dated 13 September.

I have a few / amendments I would like to see incorporated in the report.

- (1) The engagement of staff within the Trust. It is clear to me that this is still an issue within the Trust. Glen Douglas acknowledged at the public meeting on 9 September that he would undertake an independent piece of work where staff were encouraged to say what they want totally unfettered without any fear of retribution (which he says has always been the case under his leadership).
- (2) Not sure what you intend to cover in the report when you say issues around travel times and MITIGATION strategies. I am interested in the mitigation strategies as transport and travel times and accessibility from Maidstone and its surrounding hinterland to Pembury is a real issue (see Health in equalities).
- (3) I do not see anything here about the readiness of the Trust?

My Committee on Monday will receive a report which I will let you have as soon as it is published. Can you confirm in writing please that this report and the draft minute of the Committee is an addendum to the report you are preparing for the Secretary of State

Finally, I would appreciate as the Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee an embargoed copy of the report so that I am fully aware of its content at the time of publication. You will appreciate that this report has been requested by Mr Lansley on the strength of my Committees referral.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Paul D. Wickenden

Godfrey Godfrey Horne MBE
 Chairman
 Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nick Chard
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste



Mr Godfrey Horne
Chairman of the Health Overview
& Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council
Sessions House
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Members' Suite
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ
Tel: 01622 694434
Fax: 01622 694212
E-mail: members.desk@kent.gov.uk
Our Ref:
Date: 17 September 2010

Dear Godfrey

Colts Hill – Highways update

Please find below an update on highways improvements in Colts Hill.

Our consultants Jacobs were commissioned to undertake a route safety study of the A228 through Colts Hill. As a result of this a number of safety improvements have recently been implemented.

This work has included central red high friction surfacing on the approaches to the Redwings Lane junction with improved new centre line markings to highlight the presence and hazards associated with this junction. The definition and signing of bends in this locality has also been improved to minimise the risk of loss of control crashes.

Overhanging vegetation has been removed and additional verge marker posts have also been installed to improve the edge of carriageway definition.

Further works to be completed shortly include "cats eye" replacement and visibility improvements at the Whetsted Lane junction. Jacobs are also designing interactive signing on the Alders Road and the Crittenden Lane junction as part of phase 2 crash remedial works.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Chard'.

Nick Chard



West Kent

Wharf House
Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1RE

By e-mail
Cllr Godfrey Horne
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairman
Kent County Council

Direct Dial Number: 01732 375276
Fax: 01732 362525

cc: Paul Wickenden, Guy Boersma

20 September 2010

Dear Godfrey,

Thank you for sending me the draft HOSC paper on the reconfiguration of women and children's services authored by Paul Wickenden, which I received on Friday. I note that the NHS has not been invited to submit a progress report to the HOSC ahead of today's meeting and neither is it 'required' to attend. I would therefore like to raise some issues relating to the content of the report, which I should be grateful if the Committee would consider in its discussions.

The paper notes that most of the issues raised in the HOSC's referral have not been resolved. I agree that to date, these matters have mostly not been resolved and indeed with Paul's opinion (stated in point 4 on page 5) that they 'frankly cannot be resolved locally' whilst there is ambiguity as to whether the changes are to go ahead or not. This is not solely the responsibility of the NHS but relates also to the willingness of key stakeholders to engage in consideration of issues in relation to implementation when they believe there is still a chance that the Secretary of State will rule that the changes cannot go ahead. This position has been explicitly stated to the NHS on a number of occasions in both public and private meetings.

Nevertheless the purpose of the meeting on the 22nd, to which the Committee has been invited, is to begin to consider how each of these issues can be addressed in implementing the changes. As you know the NHS has worked hard over the months since the Secretary of State's instructions to gather in detail the range of views and concerns around these areas. It would seem to pre-empt the process which is in train to suggest that no progress has been made towards addressing these concerns. I am disappointed therefore that the paper does not appear to have taken into consideration or acknowledged the ongoing work to look very seriously at the matters your Committee highlighted.

In particular, the paper states that when it comes to engagement, 'the surface has barely been scratched'. This assessment is equally disappointing. A considerable amount of work has gone into engaging on the implementation since the beginning of July over what we all acknowledge to be a difficult period with summer holidays a key feature. Despite this we have been successful in engaging a range of people in a

Chairman: David Griffiths Chief Executive: Steve Phoenix



number of settings including 13 focus groups, 36 telephone interviews, eight meetings with GP practices, two discussion meetings for clinicians and three meetings with Maidstone Borough Council. Indeed, at the meeting of Maidstone Borough Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Friday evening, both councillors and the Chairman of MASH commented on the success the NHS has had in engaging with a range of audiences. At the beginning of the process I discussed with you how the HOSC itself wished to engage and your view was that as a Committee you had completed your work but individual members may wish to be involved in the engagement process and should be invited to do so. We have therefore invited members at each stage, through yourself and Paul Wickenden.

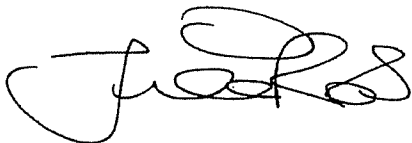
There is no doubt that we would like to have more and deeper engagement and I would hope that once a definitive position is agreed in everyone's perception people will be more willing and open to work on the key issues. In the meantime I'm pleased to say that we have 50 participants booked to join the co-design event on Wednesday, and from a range of backgrounds.

I note that the paper repeats the suggestion made at your meeting on 3 September that the NHS engagement process has not been open to everyone. I wish to restate that this is absolutely not the case. We have widely publicised how local people can get involved and have their say, through a range of publications, the media, Trust and PCT websites and through materials we distributed at the public meeting on 9 September. We have used an independent facilitator to gather views, concerns and suggestions and have not refused anyone who has approached us wishing to take part. In addition, Kent Messenger newspaper agreed to run a campaign for readers to submit their questions for the NHS to answer; we continue to work with the newspaper on this campaign.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that we are all on the same side in wishing to engage key stakeholders. I trust that once this phase has been concluded, your Committee and its Members will both engage positively themselves and support the NHS in reaching a much wider audience than has been possible over the last two months.

I would request that the Committee, as a neutral entity, take my letter into consideration, both in your discussions at the meeting today and in the final report you submit to the SHA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Ross', written in a cursive style.

Julia Ross
Director of Strategy & Communications