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South East Coast

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Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter of 22nd December 2010. I was pleased to receive your confirmation that the proposed changes to women's and children's services in West Kent, and the centralisation of inpatient obstetrics and paediatrics at the new Pembury hospital, should go ahead. This will ensure the best quality and choice of service for women and their families in the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells area.

The co-design group established by NHS West Kent during our earlier engagement work will meet again next month to continue the work of addressing the local concerns you mention. This work will be made considerably easier by your correspondence yesterday. I will also ensure that the issue of paediatric support to Maidstone A&E is addressed promptly by NHS West Kent and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, and be happy to update you on this as the discussions progress if you so wish.

Yours sincerely

Candy Morris
Chief Executive
South East Coast SHA