

The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
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Date: 13 February 2011

Dear Mr Lansley

**WOMENS AND CHILDRENS SERVICES – MAIDSTONE AND TUNBRIDGE
WELLS NHS TRUST**

At the County Councils Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Friday 7 January I submitted to the Committee your recent letter to me and Candy Morris and made available to the Committee the executive summary of the report you commissioned.

The Committee passed by a majority the following motion and I would draw your specific attention and ask for a reply to the first two paragraphs of this motion which I have highlighted in bold typeface.

1. That the Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) writes to the Secretary of State for Health, expressing profound disappointment with his decision to downgrade maternity and paediatric services at Maidstone that overrides the near-unanimous views of HOSC on 19 February 2010 and the local GPs opposing the reconfiguration plans.
2. That the Vice-Chairman of HOSC also requests that the Secretary of State for Health defers his decision until Maidstone GPs as future commissioners of local clinical services, are able to determine the future scope of maternity provision in the County Town.
3. That KCC monitors the impact of the reconfiguration on the number of admissions to the consultant-led maternity units at Medway and Ashford Hospitals.



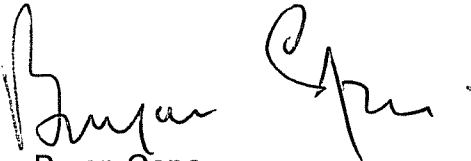
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4. In view of reported shortages of midwives and the temporary closure of the birthing units in East Kent over the Christmas and New Year period, that HOSC requests an urgent review of all birthing units and consultant-led maternity services in Kent.

The latter two paragraphs of the motion I am dealing with locally with NHS colleagues.

I look forward to hearing from.

Yours sincerely

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

Bryan Cope
Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee