

Item 5 – Women’s and Children’s Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Update.

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 March 2011

Subject: Women’s and Children’s Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Update.

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## **1. Background**

(a) At the meeting of this Committee of 7 January 2011, the following resolution was passed:

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.
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.

(b) The subsequent reply from the Secretary of State is attached.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note the attached correspondence.