

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 April 2011

Subject: NHS Financial Sustainability: Part 2 – Acute Sector

1. Background

- (a) Following the approval of the Forward Work Programme of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 January 2011, this will be the second of three meetings dedicated to the topic of NHS Financial Sustainability. In overarching terms, the intention is to determine answers to the following strategic questions:
1. What are the challenges to ensuring the NHS in Kent is financially sustainable?
 2. Are there any implications for the range and quality of health services available to the people of Kent as a result of any measures being taken to achieve or maintain financial sustainability?
- (b) The focus of the previous meeting was on the Primary Care Trusts. The four main Acute Trusts have been invited to today's meeting (19 April). The intention is to consider mental health services, community health services and ambulance services at the meeting of 10 June.
- (c) For background information, the questions asked of the Acute Trusts in advance of the meeting are contained in the Appendix to this report.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

1. Members are asked to delegate authority to the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Group Spokesmen to prepare a list of recommendations to present to a future meeting of the Committee for discussion and agreement prior to their submission to the NHS for a response.
2. To assist this process, Members are asked to suggest recommendations to the Committee Officers following each meeting.

Appendix – Questions from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the meeting of 19 April 2011.

1. Why is achieving financial balance across the local health economy important and what are the potential consequences of not doing so?
2. What kinds of measures have been taken in 2010/11 in terms of changing what services you provide and the way in which they are provided within your organisation in order to try and achieve financial balance?
3. What kinds of measures are being considered for 2011/12?
4. What do you see are the main challenges to achieving financial balance across the health economy as a whole?
5. What has been the impact of the NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 and the financial settlement for this next financial year?
6. How is the QIPP challenge being met within your organisation?
7. Are there any particular demographic trends in Kent that will have an impact on the kinds of services you provide?