



Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust
and West Kent Primary Care Trust

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30th August 2011

Mr Chard
Chairman – Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council
Members' Suite
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dear Nick

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 9th September 2010

Thank you for your letter dated 18th July 2011. I have liaised with my colleagues involved in NHS Transition and we have constructed this joint response below.

In terms of the two strategic questions you have asked, I am more than happy to talk about these at the meeting on the 9th September, however, I thought I would give a brief update below.

We are working very closely with our colleagues in the Kent and Medway Cluster to ensure that all policy proposals associated with the Health and Social Care Bill are being given due consideration and are being acted upon. We currently have policy support from within KCC and officers are advising us on steps that need to be taken to ensure we understand and comply with our obligations. We also have monthly meetings with Ann Sutton, the Chief Executive of the Cluster and Colin Tomson, the Chairman of the Cluster, along with key Cluster Directors and with Senior Managers and Cabinet Members of Kent County Council to ensure that the transition is smooth. These meetings discuss the joint working we need to undertake and also ensures that the continuity of care people receive is constant.

I understand that Ann Sutton will be writing separately on the current state of development of Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent. What I can tell you is that following on from the listening exercise the H&WBB has more of a voice on this subject.

We have held two H&WBB workshops, one in March and one in July 2011, where we have involved District Councils, GPs, representatives from the Kent and Medway Cluster and Kent LINK. These have been well attended and feedback has been positive. Now that the County Council have agreed that the H&WBB will become a statutory committee of the Council, we plan to hold the first Shadow meeting on 28th September this year. The first meeting will focus on the election of the Chair, formally accepting the terms of reference and standing orders, agreeing a code of conduct and future dates. We will also focus on substantive issues including Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

In your letter you requested an update on HealthWatch and I have attached for information a paper which sets out progress to date.

In terms of the involvement of key partnerships, as mentioned above, we are heavily involved with our colleagues from the Kent and Medway Cluster on all things relating to health reforms. I have regular contact with GPs and have been on the road visiting many practices. We also engage with key partners on a regular basis to ensure that Kent is well prepared for the changes within the health service.

Independent scrutiny of the performance, functions and outcomes of the Shadow H&WBB in Kent will be provided by KCC's Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and KCC's Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committees for Adult Social Services and Specialist Children's Services.

I understand that Graham Gibbens has communicated separately on an update on Public Health and has suggested this be moved to early next year once the budgets are known and the HR framework has been published.

I hope you have found this brief update helpful and I shall look forward to discussing the above with you in more detail when we meet on the 9th September. At that meeting I shall also cover the second question in your letter regarding how continuity of the care people receive is being ensured during the transition. Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health, will also be attending with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Gough', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Gough
Cabinet Member for Business Strategy,
Performance and Health Reform