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Dear Tristan

**Re: NHS Financial Sustainability – Key issues and recommendations**

Thank you for sending me the above report and for inviting Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust to the HOSC itself.


Firstly, at this time of great transition and financial challenge, it is important that the local authority is fully aware of the impact this could have on its resident population and involves itself in the dialogue and the scrutiny of what is being planned from a health perspective.

With regard to the detail in the report, I thought it was very helpful and picked up the key issues. From a public health perspective, the issue of the allocations formula is important. Your report picked up on the fact that West Kent only received £1,499 per person. Dartford and Gravesham is much poorer than the rest of West Kent and the life expectancy is significantly less in some wards. It is a distinct disadvantage to be a poorer district in an overly affluent area and commissioners must work to mitigate the problems which arise from this situation. I think the HOSC should be duly mindful of this fact.

On a matter of factual accuracy, you have appended the minutes on NHS Financial Sustainability. On page 11 under item 4, I think this should read positively. Based on the size of populations, it is likely that the services people regularly need will be provided on both the Darent Valley and Medway sites.

Once again, thanks for the report.

Yours sincerely



**Susan Acott**  
Chief Executive

Chairman: Sarah Dunnett - Chief Executive: Susan Acott

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