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To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 February 2010

Subject: Item 5. Intended Outcomes: Emergency Care Pathways.

1. Background

(1) In previous discussions that the Committee has had about different ways to restructure and refocus the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one of the recurring themes has been that the Committee's meetings should be more focused on the outcomes it would like to achieve. Another has been the need to make the work of the Committee more accessible to members of the public.

(2) This paper is intended to be a way to progress towards achieving these twin aims. Two sets of questions are set out below, both of which the meeting will look to having answered by the end of the meeting: one for members of the public and the other for the Scrutiny Committee.

2. Outcomes for the Emergency Care Pathways Agenda Item

(1). Public Question

- a) If I suffer from a stroke, or a heart attack, or am involved in a serious accident, how will I be treated and where will I be taken?

(2). Scrutiny Questions

- a) The 2008 document Healthier People, Excellent Care, by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority made the following recommendation: "By 2010 all appropriate heart attack, stroke patients and major trauma patients will receive their care from 24/7 specialist units." What progress has been made in achieving this?
- b) Specifically, how successfully is this aim being achieved in Kent?
- c) How is the nature and location of cardiac, stroke and major trauma services changing for the people of Kent?

3. Recommendations

(1) The Committee is asked to assess whether the outcomes in section 2 above have been achieved or if further information on this topic is required by the Committee.