

By: Tristan Godfrey, Research Officer to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 February 2010

Subject: Women's and Children's Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Background

- (1) On 26 September 2003, the NHS OSC (as HOSC was then known) was informed that MTW, South West Kent PCT and Maidstone Weald PCT had embarked on a project to develop proposals for service changes. This built on work carried out in 2000 by the newly formed Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) and what was then the West Kent Health Authority¹.
- (2) At this meeting an outline of some of the areas which were being examined was provided. Further information on the three stages of the project was provided to the Committee on 14 November 2003. The issue was revisited on 15 March 2004 with the Committee receiving an update on how the project was developing.
- (3) On 8 July 2004, the Committee had a presentation on the South of West Kent Health Community Consultation. This covered 'Priority 2' changes and ran from 12 July to 4 October 2004. The consultation document was called "Shaping Your Local health Services." A summary of these proposals, along with the Committee's decision to support them can be found in Appendix 1 - Extract from NHS OSC Minutes, 15 October 2004.
- (4) The 'Priority 3' changes primarily related to:
 - a. Women's and children's services; and
 - b. Orthopaedics trauma and elective orthopaedics.
- (5) The Committee was presented with an overview of the plans for these areas on 30 September 2004. At this meeting, "The Chairman reported that the County Council in conjunction with East Sussex County Council were to establish a Select Committee to look at all these proposals in some detail. The Select Committee would also have representation from the Patient and Public Involvement Forums

¹ Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust was established on 14 February 2000. Maidstone and Malling PCT was established on 16 February 2001 and changed its name to Maidstone Weald PCT on 1 April 2002. South West Kent PCT was established in 16 February 2001. Sussex Downs and Weald PCT was established on 1 April 2002. On 1 October 2006, West Kent PCT (NHS West Kent) replaced the three former PCTs of Maidstone Weald, South West Kent and Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.

and the Borough/District Councils which make up the South-West Kent Health Economy.”²

Women’s and Children’s Services

- (6) The consultation document pertaining to women’s and children’s services was launched on 4 October 2004 and ran until 31 December 2004. The document was entitled, “Excellence in care, closer to home. The future of services for women and children – a consultation document.”
- (7) According to p.8 of this document:

This is how services will be provided for both women and children if our proposals go ahead:

Pembury	Maidstone
Gynaecology	Gynaecology
Outpatient service	Outpatient service
Day care	Day care
Early pregnancy assessment	Early pregnancy assessment
Inpatient service, non-cancer	Gynaecological cancer
Paediatrics	Paediatrics
Outpatient service	Outpatient service
Assessment and ambulatory care, including medical and surgical day beds	Assessment and ambulatory care, including medical and surgical day beds
Community nursing team – seven days per week	Community nursing team – seven days per week
Child & Adolescent Health and Development Centre	Treat and transfer facility
Neonatal service	Child & Adolescent Health and Development Centre
Inpatient Service	
Obstetrics/Maternity	Obstetrics/Maternity
Midwife-led birthing centre	Midwife-led birthing centre
Outpatient service	Outpatient service
Antenatal care	Antenatal care
Day and fetal assessment	Day and fetal assessment
Community midwifery	Community midwifery
Consultant-led maternity unit	

- (8) The Joint Select Committee established to produce a response to this consultation consisted of representatives from Kent County Council, East Sussex County Council, Kent District/Borough Councils, East Sussex District/Borough Councils and the Patient and

² Minutes, 30 September 2004, National Health Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent County Council.

Public Involvement Forum. Its report on the women's and children's consultation was produced in December 2004.

- (9) The NHS OSC considered the Joint Select Committee Report at its meeting on 14 December 2004. At the end of this discussion, the Committee passed the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that the Committee Manager (Overview and Scrutiny) be authorised to conclude the report in conjunction with the Joint Select Committee and Mr Ford (as the only spokesman on the County Council's NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee who does not serve on the Joint Select Committee). This would enable the report to be submitted to NHS colleagues in accordance with the 31 December 2004 consultation deadline.”³

- (10) The NHS Joint Board of Members with delegated powers on behalf of South West Kent PCT, Maidstone Weald PCT, Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust met at Sessions House on 23 February 2005. “Dr Robinson, the Chairman of this Committee and Chairman of the Joint Select Committee was invited to make a presentation to this Joint Board of Members. (15) The report before the Joint Board contained the Executive Summary and recommendations of the Joint Select Committee. It was the decision of the Joint Board that the current model of care for the provision of Women's and Children's Services within the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust was unsustainable and that the proposed model of care being centralised at Pembury in the new hospital in 2010/1, was the way forward. Having taken the decision to centralise these services at Tunbridge Wells the Joint Board then went on to consider the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee and gave their views on the response. This was attached to the report before the Committee.”⁴
- (11) Appendix 2 contains a copy of the conclusions and recommendations from the Executive Summary of the Joint Select Committee response to the women's and children's consultation. The version used in the appendix is one that went before the County Council on 24 March 2005. The italicised sections within the Joint Select Committee's recommendations are the summarised responses from the delegated Joint Board of the PCTs and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust⁵.

³ Minutes, 14 December 2004, National Health Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent County Council.

⁴ Minutes, 15 April 2005, National Health Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent County Council.

⁵ Both the full Joint Select Committee report and the Executive Summary can be accessed from here, <http://www.eastsussexhealth.org/programme.html>

- (12) On 24 March 2005, the County Council discussed the Joint Select Committee report and following a vote on an amendment, which was defeated, passed the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that the joint response of the Joint Select Committee to the consultation on Women’s and Children’s Services within the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust together with the decision and the response of the Joint Board of delegated Members from the South West Kent PCT, Maidstone Weald PCT, Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, be noted.”⁶

- (13) A series of updates on the development of women’s and children’s services was presented to the Committee at regular intervals. On receiving an update at its meeting on 22 September 2006, the Committee passed the following resolution:

“Resolved that it be noted that the proposal to relocate Women’s and Children’s services from Maidstone Hospital to Pembury Hospital within the next twelve months had now been withdrawn.”⁷

- (14) On 20 July 2006, the Committee received an update from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust on the planned Private Finance Initiative (PFI) hospital at Pembury. Possible changes to services at MTW were also discussed.

- (15) Appendix 3 contains the relevant extract of the Minutes of this meeting, along with the post-meeting note. This note was endorsed by the Committee at its meeting of 22 September 2006.

- (16) At its meeting of 27 November 2009, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Service Redesign. Women’s and Children’s services formed a large part of the discussion. At the end of this, the Committee:

(55) RESOLVED that:-

a) the Committee thank colleagues from the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for the information that they have provided on the provision of services across the Trust and the redesign following the opening of the new Pembury Hospital in 2011;

b) a small Sub Committee be established to explore in greater detail with the health organisations within the health economy the rationale of the provision of women’s and children’s services to establish whether this best meets the needs of patients who look to the

⁶ Minutes, 24 March 2005, Kent County Council.

⁷ Minutes, 22 September 2006, National Health Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent County Council.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for these services and to report back to a meeting of this Committee in February 2010;

c) the Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman, Spokesmen and stakeholders to determine the membership of the Sub Committee referred to in resolution (2) above; and

d) the Committee accept the Trusts offer to visit the Maidstone and Pembury Hospital sites and the necessary arrangements be made for these visits as soon as possible.⁸

⁸ Minutes, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 27 November 2009,
[http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Published/C00000112/M00003065/AI00011157/\\$Minutes.docA.ps.pdf](http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Published/C00000112/M00003065/AI00011157/$Minutes.docA.ps.pdf)

Appendix 1 - Extract from NHS OSC Minutes, 15 October 2004

49. South of West Kent Health Community – Priority 2, Proposed Changes

(Mr S Ford, Chief executive South West Kent Primary care trust and Mrs R Gibb, Chief executive Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust were in attendance for this item)

(1) The Committee received a presentation from Mr S Ford and Mrs R Gibb on the feedback to the consultation document “Shaping Your Local Health Services” commonly known as Priority 2, Proposed Changes.

(2) To remind the Committee the proposals in Priority 2 were:-

- move Medical Service – Pembury to Kent and Sussex and to local Community Hospitals and Community Rehabilitation Teams
- move the In-Patient Gynaecology – Maidstone to Pembury
- move Children’s Planned Routine Surgery from Kent and Sussex, Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone
- move the Kent and Sussex In-Patient Haematology to Maidstone Hospital at the Kent Oncology Centre to create a Specialist centre

(3) The Committee were then informed of the feedback methodology and feedback received from questionnaires. In general the feedback was that centralisation was welcome to improve standards. Concerns were expressed about the impact on staff but one of the most and consistently identified significant issues was that of transport and travel.

(4) The Chairman then suggested to the Committee that the Committee should support the proposed changes.

(5) **RESOLVED** that the Committee unanimously support the proposals set out in the consultation document known as Priority 2.

Appendix 2 – Conclusion and Recommendations extracted from the Executive Summary of the Joint Select Committee response to *“Excellence in care, closer to home. The future for women and children.”*⁹

(The italicised sections within the Joint Select Committee’s recommendations are the summarised response from the delegated Joint Board of the PCTs and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust).

“11. Conclusion

Making any changes to hospital services can be extremely emotive, however when change is related to women’s and children’s services this sentiment is heightened. Although the Committee has some reservations with the movement of services from a densely populated area such as Maidstone to Pembury, it is satisfied that the rationale for doing so provides justification. To not move these to Pembury would lead to a severe gap in services for those in East Sussex and the far West of Kent. However, in moving such services the Acute Trust and Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure there is fair access to these services for all, which will involve thoroughly investigating the transport issues to ensure there is adequate infrastructure to support the new development.

Consequently the Joint Select Committee fully supports the Acute Trusts vision for ‘A single Acute Trust, operating from two major hospitals, with centres of excellence that work together in a complementary way’.

12. Recommendations

The Committee supports the proposals for the redesign of Women’s and Children’s services. However, the Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

- The Committee recommends that the Acute Trust and PCTs conduct future comprehensive consultations with more structured planning and less time restrictions and the process is developed in partnership with relevant Patient and Public Involvement Forums. The Committee also recommends that where possible, options be given for the public to comment on.
- The Acute Trust must satisfy the Committee that the pressures facing the services at present are to be addressed, and produce an intermediate plan for sustaining services until the new development is operational and reports on these issues on a six monthly basis, either in writing or by attendance at the NHS OSCs.

⁹ Taken from Agenda Papers, NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 15 April 2005, [http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Data/NHS%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee/20050415/Agenda/\\$Item%205%20-%20Appendix%203%20-%20JSC%20Response%20.doc.pdf](http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Data/NHS%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee/20050415/Agenda/$Item%205%20-%20Appendix%203%20-%20JSC%20Response%20.doc.pdf)

Summary of Joint PCT Board Response given at meeting on 23 February 2005 :

The Intermediate Plan was in a draft stage and would be complete by the end of March when it would be shared with all the Primary Care Trusts and the two Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees for East Sussex and Kent.

- The Committee recommends that the Maidstone midwife-led birthing centre is situated away from the main hospital site.

Summary of Joint Board response given at the meeting on 23 February 2005:

The Intermediate Plan would show potential locations for this Unit. The Joint Board agreed with the principle that the Birthing Centre would not be on the hospital site.

- The Acute Trust must satisfy the NHS OSCs that when developing the proposals for the midwife-led birthing centre, it follows best practice, such as the Crowborough birthing centre and as informed by the Royal Colleges.

Summary of response given by the Joint Board on 23 February 2005:

There was already an active dialogue between the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and the Crowborough Birthing Unit.

- The Committee recommends that the Acute Trust and PCTs develop plans for community services, in terms of midwifery and children's nursing as a matter of priority. This is to ensure these are well established and sustainable and are able to demonstrate a reduction in the reliance on acute hospital services before the service changes are implemented.

Summary of response given by the Joint Board on 23 February 2005:

The plans for community services would be included within the Intermediate Plan.

- The Committee recommends that the PCTs develop and promote a communication strategy specifically for the education of the public on the service redesign, if these proposals are implemented.

Summary of response given by the Joint Board on 23 February 2005:

Following the Joint Board meeting some immediate steps would be taken to communicate the outcomes to the staff and public in the short term. A Joint Communications Plan and Strategy would be finalised by 30 April 2005 and would address issues of education and public communication and involvement etc.

- The Committee recommends that both County Councils, relevant Boroughs and District Councils and the Acute Trust identify dedicated officers, who will recognise the challenges and find solutions in partnership, to ensure there is adequate transport provision to serve the new development at Pembury
- To extend the East Kent Integrated Transport Model, if it is proved to be successful on evaluation, to include West Kent with the involvement of appropriate bodies in East Sussex.

Summary of response given by the Joint Board on 23 February 2005:

Work would continue with the local authorities and others to address the transportation challenges. The trust will continue to explore the East Kent Integrated Transport model.

The NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to closely monitor developments and the implementation of these plans, if the proposals are accepted. The NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to hold the Trust to account in regard to these proposals.”

Appendix 3 - Extract from NHS OSC Minutes, 20 July 2006

29. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust - update

(Rose Gibb, Chief executive, and Frank Sims, Director of Modernisation, from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust were in attendance for this item)

(1) The Committee received an update from Ms Rose Gibb, Chief Executive of Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, regarding the planned Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Hospital at Pembury. Ms Gibb explained that the PFI project was under review by the department of Health and HM Treasury, but she was confident that it would be allowed to proceed; final approval by the Treasury was expected in February 2007. She explained that the scope of the new hospital had been significantly reduced since the drawing up of the original plans. It was anticipated that the hospital would open in December 2010.

(2) Consideration was also given by the Committee to the Trust's proposals for achieving financial balance, including possible changes relating to:

- Trauma and Orthopaedic services;
- Accident and Emergency services;
- Women's and Children's services.
- the growing role of the private sector, including Independent Sector Treatment Centres, in providing NHS care;
- the part played by cottage and community hospitals in providing care outside acute hospitals; and
- the impact of Payment by Results on acute hospitals' finances.

(5) RESOLVED that the update be noted.

POST MEETING NOTE:

Following consultation with the party spokesmen on the Committee, the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust was advised on 11 August 2006 of the following views – which the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be asked to endorse on 22 September 2006:

“The spokesmen support your views to consult on the proposed changes to the provision of emergency surgical services, emergency orthopaedic services and inpatient elective surgical services.

The spokesmen accept that the changes proposed to acute medical admissions are part of the normal process redesign of services and that given that patients will not be displaced from Maidstone and Kent and Sussex Hospitals but will now find themselves going to specialist admitting units rather than Accident and Emergency does not require consultation.”