

**Joint Kent and Medway Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Wednesday 13 February 2013**

**Reconfiguration of acute mental health inpatient services**

**Proposal from Medway Councillors appointed to the Joint KCC/Medway  
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Joint HOSC is asked to agree to request the PCT Cluster Board to delay taking a final decision on the reconfiguration of adult mental health acute inpatient services at its meeting on 20 February until such time as:

1. The NHS response to data errors on which the consultation was based as set out in Appendix 2 has been independently validated to the satisfaction of the Committee
2. further discussions have taken place with Medway Council about the scope for acute inpatient provision in Medway including access to the Estates Strategy for KMPT, in light of the concerns relating to access and transport raised by Medway consultees during the consultation. (Note: the information requested by the Committee on 3 July 2012 about sites previously considered was only made available in early January 2013 with cost estimates that are open to challenge and the NHS suggestion for a Recovery House in Medway has been made only in the last few days. A Recovery House is not a substitute for high quality local acute inpatient services).
3. the work underway on a Transport Plan has been completed and the Committee is satisfied that it includes:
  - i) details of the secure transport to be used for conveying detained patients suffering an acute mental health crisis from Medway to Dartford and that this will be of the required standard
  - ii) measures to address concerns that have been raised about access to Little Brook Hospital in Dartford for families without a car or on a low income wishing to visit loved ones from Medway and facing a 2.5 - 3 hour round trip by public transport at a cost of £11.60 return by bus per adult
  - iii) clarity over support for Medway patients on Section 17 leave to return to Medway
4. adequate levels of suitably qualified and experienced staff are in place in the Medway CRHT establishment, in addition to the appointment of STR workers, and concerns raised about the quality of care being provided by the CRHT in Medway during the formal consultation process and previously have been addressed and resolved before any local changes are considered with independent validation by the regulators

5. additional information relating to the implementation of the preferred option (Option A) has been provided to the Joint HOSC including the projected financial costs and savings in the context of the Trust's overall financial position, and there is sight of the equalities impact assessment for the proposed reconfiguration and any risk assessment and risk management plan that has been undertaken.