

Chris Smith
Chairman
Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council and Medway Council

15 February 2013

Dear Chris

Kent and Medway NHS Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee Meeting – 13 February 2013

Further to the discussions on Wednesday and the paper submitted by Medway Council HASC Members for consideration at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, I thought it would be helpful to set out how we propose to respond to the additional information requested.

The questions in the Medway paper will be extracted and those that can be answered immediately, which we believe to be the majority, will be addressed at the NHS Kent and Medway Board meeting on Wednesday 20 February. There is a slot on the agenda which accommodates questions submitted in advance. This will mean that the questions and answers can be heard in public and Board Members will have heard the responses prior to making their decision.

With regards to the next JOSC meeting which I believe will take place next month before the election purdah starts, colleagues feel that it would be helpful to set out the pertinent issues relating to this complex review in a presentation to be given at the start of the meeting . If you are in agreement with this proposal my office will liaise with Tristan Godfrey and Rosie Gunstone to ensure that we address in the presentation all the key concerns raised by members this week, e.g. mental health community provision.

As you know the review has taken close to a year to arrive at this stage and we are anxious to avoid prolonging the debate to the detriment of the service and the anxiety of those involved. We are also keen to provide you and your colleagues with the assurance you seek about these outstanding questions. We look forward to your confirming the date for the next meeting.

Kind regards



Felicity Cox
Chief Executive
NHS Kent and Medway