

Kent JHOSC Members Comments on the Stroke Services Review

Thank you for the opportunity to submit information to be considered by the NHS ahead of the production of a final Decision-Making Business Case.

The main points that we as Kent representatives on the Joint HOSC would like to raise are as follows:

- We agree with the introduction of Hyper-Acute Stroke Units (HASUs) and support the case that has been made as to the health improvements that will follow their introduction.
- We also support in principle the number of HASU sites being three.
- Kent Members have a couple of specific issues relating to residents in East Kent:
 - With only one HASU based in East Kent, we have concerns about the travel times for the deprived communities in Romney Marsh and Thanet and would like to see further detail on how this will be mitigated.
 - Across the whole of East Kent, we have concerns about what mitigations will be put in place in this part of the County as a result of the introduction of the HASU coming later than the HASUs in West Kent. While we understand the practical challenges, this will potentially lead to Kent residents experiencing an unequal level of service in different parts of the County during any transition period.
- As a basic principle, we would like to be assured that local rehabilitation services were established and ready to run on the same day that any HASU becomes operational.
- As raised at JHOSC meetings, some financial information was changed at a late stage in the consultation process and we have concerns about the revised information being fed into it at a late stage.