
QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MOTHER HOSPITAL

To: **Council – 15 October 2015**

By: **Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All**

Summary: **Response from Kent County Council Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel in response to questions regarding Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother Hospital.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In December 2013 Thanet District Council received a petition protesting against changes to emergency services at Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother Hospitals accident and emergency department.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel established a task and finish group to look into matters. In order for the group to establish an informed opinion a number of health professionals were invited to attend meetings throughout 2014, these included representatives from South East Ambulance Service, health consultants, accident and emergency union officers, Royal College of Nursing and the then Chief Executive of East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. Unfortunately none of these agencies were agreeable to informing the task and finish group and as such they were unable to scrutinise the concerns of the residents of Thanet.

The petition was referred back to Full Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in April 2015 where it was agreed that the key questions were referred to Kent County Council's Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee were written to in July 2015 explaining the situation, the current situation and requesting their support and assistance in addressing the key issues raised in the task and finish groups terms of reference.

The Chair of the Committee responded advising that they have on going engagement with East Kent Hospital University Foundation Trust with regards to developing their clinical strategy. The Trust is due to return to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October with a further update.

This response has been given to our Overview & Scrutiny Panel who referred it to Full Council and have agreed that a watchful brief be kept to monitor the progress by EKHUFT towards developing the new clinical strategy.

3.0 Options

3.1 Note the report

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 Maintain a watchful brief to monitor the progress by EKHUFT towards developing the new clinical strategy for the region whilst maintaining a special interest on its implications for Thanet District.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That the response from Kent County Council Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 This has already been consulted with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and its views are as follows: that the report should be noted by Council.

Contact Officer:	<i>Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods, 7425</i>
Reporting to:	<i>Larissa Reed, Interim Director of Community Services</i>

Annex List

Annex 1	Response from Kent Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	<i>n/a</i>
Legal	<i>n/a</i>
Communications	<i>n/a</i>