



August 2010

Kent LINK External Representatives Meeting Report

Name of LINK Representative	Mark Fittock / Roger Kendall
Name of External Organisation	Kent County Council (KCC) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)
Name of External Group	HOSC
Name of lead contact of External Group	Paul Wickenden
Date of Meeting	7 January 2011
Venue of Meeting	County Hall, Maidstone
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>Dentistry:</p> <p>The HOSC committee had previously looked at dentistry with the changes to dentists' NHS contracts and the efforts made by the PCTs to provide a more comprehensive service throughout Kent.</p> <p>The committee was provided with comprehensive reports outlining the challenges facing the NHS in delivering a first class service to the people of Kent from the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent.</p> <p>Members were concerned about the suitability of the new contracts and the lack of success of the preventative side of the service. While there was evidence that the number of NHS dentists had increased across Kent there was also a recognition of the under funding of the service due to historical funding patterns.</p> <p>Members of the committee were concerned that there was still a perception that there was a lack of NHS provision and more needs to be done to promote the service. Roger Kendall spoke of the inadequacies of services in the Herne Bay Area.</p>

	<p>While the new computer service identified local dentists easily there were some concerns about the accuracy of the information provided.</p> <p>Members were very critical of the role and the contribution made by the Care Quality Commission in the monitoring of the service.</p> <p>After a lengthy debate it was agreed to keep the subject of dentistry under review and revisit the subject when some evidence is available on the success of the newly commissioned piloting reform of the NHS dental contracts in England.</p> <p>Report to the Secretary of State for Health on changes to Women and Children's Services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust</p> <p>Members of the HOSC were concerned about the Secretary of State's decision to support the Strategic Health Authority's plan to move maternity services to the new Pembury site and have a midwife lead birthing unit in Maidstone. They asked that the Secretary of State delay his decision and called for a possible challenge via a Judicial Review.</p>
<p>Recommendations / Actions eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for LINK bulletin • Items for individual interest group • Issue to Priorities Panel / Governors' Group 	<p>Future meeting on 4 February 2011 is on the shape of community service provision.</p> <p>How can first class community health services best be provided for the people of Kent?</p> <p>What are the challenges to realising this provision?</p> <p>Further three meetings in March April and June will all be about the NHS financial sustainability.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>4 February 2011</p>

Recommendations / Actions

For Office Use Only	Recommendation / Action	Date of Action Taken	Who By