



**Legal & Democratic Services**

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To:  
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Date: 8 December 2009

Dear Graham

**Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 5 February 2010**

At its meeting of 5 February 2010, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be examining the subject of emergency care pathways (cardiac, stroke and trauma).

The Committee would be interested in hearing from stakeholders with a view to answering the following question on behalf of the people of Kent, “If I suffer from a stroke, or a heart attack, or am involved in a serious accident, how will I be treated and where will I be taken?”

By the end of the meeting, the Committee will hope to have answered the following questions:-

1. The 2008 document Healthier People, Excellent Care (HPEC), by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority made the following recommendation: “By 2010 all appropriate heart attack, stroke patients and major trauma patients will receive their care from 24/7 specialist units.” What progress has been made in achieving this?
2. Specifically, how successfully is this aim being achieved in Kent?
3. How is the nature and location of cardiac, stroke and major trauma services changing for the people of Kent?

To assist them in answering these questions, the Committee would very much appreciate receiving the following information from you in advance of the meeting:-

**Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor**  
Diretor of Law & Governance

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



WINNER  
Public Sector Team of the Year



FINALIST  
Public Sector Team of the Year

1. Have any trends emerged from feedback LINK has received about emergency cardiac, stroke or major trauma services?
2. Is LINK planning on carrying out any reviews in these areas?

The Committee is requesting information from NHS South East Coast, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, NHS West Kent, South East Coast NHS Ambulance Trust, and the Kent LINK. A list of all the questions to which the Committee is seeking answers in advance of the meeting is appended to this letter.

We would like to receive any written submissions for the February meeting by **midday, Wednesday 27 January 2010**. This will enable its inclusion in the Agenda which is produced prior to each meeting and made available to the public. I attach a set of submission guidelines that may be helpful to you

Please send any written submissions to Tristan Godfrey, Research Officer to the HOSC, by email to [tristan.godfrey@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tristan.godfrey@kent.gov.uk).

If, when sending in any written documentation, you could let us know who will be attending the meeting we would be most grateful.

The meeting itself will take place at Sessions House on Friday, 5 February 2010 and will begin at 10 O'clock in the morning.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above number, or call Tristan Godfrey on 01622 694196.

Kind regards

*Paul D. Wickenden*

Paul Wickenden  
**Overview, Scrutiny & Localism Manager**  
**Democratic Services**

**Geoff Wild** LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor  
Diretor of Law & Governance

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT**



## Appendix – Questions asked in advance of HOSC meeting 5 February 2010 on Emergency Care Pathways

*For NHS South East Coast:*

1. What was the rationale behind the HPEC recommendation?
2. What service changes have taken place across the region, and what changes are planned, in order to provide these 24/7 specialist units?
3. What is the definition of the different levels of trauma service, including 'poly-trauma'?
4. Can the SHA provide a map indicating where, across the region, these specialist units are located, or where they are planned to be located in the future?
5. For each of these locations can you name the services provided and indicate whether they are available 24/7?
6. What should a specialist stroke unit contain, what services should it provide and what hours should it be open for?
7. Please provide an overview of the 3T development in Brighton and the impact of these changes on the people of Kent, including which areas are likely to be more affected than others.
8. What assessment has been made of the impact of the implementation of new major trauma and stroke services in London on care pathways for the population of Kent?
9. Are there any regional or local workforce issues which could delay the introduction of these specialist units?
10. What part do the air ambulance services play in these changes?

*For South East Coast NHS Ambulance Service:*

1. How will the public's experience of the ambulance service change as a result of the development of the 24/7 specialist units?
2. How will the training and job descriptions of paramedics be changing to take account of these changes?
3. How else will the ambulance service be changing in the light of these service developments?
4. How will it be decided where to take a particular patient?
5. How is this decision communicated to the patient, where possible?
6. What is Protocol C?
7. What information can you provide about the ambulance travel times to these specialist centres from different parts of Kent?

**Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor**  
Director of Law & Governance

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT**



*For NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS West Kent:*

1. What service changes have taken place across the PCT area, and what changes are planned, in order to provide these 24/7 specialist units?
2. Can the two PCTs provide a map indicating where, across the region, these specialist units are located, or where they are planned to be located in the future?
3. For each of these locations can you name the services provided and indicate whether they are available 24/7?
4. What plans do the PCTs have to ensure that the general public understand these changes?
5. How many people in Kent receive emergency treatment for heart attacks, stroke, and major trauma each year?
6. How many Kent patients are currently taken outside of Kent to receive treatment in an emergency, where are they sent, and how is this likely to change in the future?
7. What role does the Kent and Medway Cardiovascular Network play?

*For the Kent LINK:*

1. Have any trends emerged from feedback received about emergency cardiac, stroke or major trauma services?
2. Is LINK planning on carrying out any reviews in these areas?

**Geoff Wild LL.B, Dip.LG, Solicitor**  
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