

18th October 2007

ANNEX 1

Dear

As you will be aware the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Hasting and Rother PCT recently conducted a public consultation on the future of maternity services in East Sussex. During the consultation a significant number of new proposals emerged each offering new and different ways of delivering maternity services locally.

In response to suggestions made at a stakeholder feedback meeting and subsequently at a HOSC meeting the PCT boards have considered whether they might find it helpful for proposers of these new options to meet with the joint boards to present their respective cases and answer any questions the boards may have. The boards have now considered this suggestion and have concluded that it would indeed help them in reaching a decision on this important matter if they could hear personally from the proposers of the various new options to enable them to fully understand the key points.

Accordingly - as the proposer of option(s) 12 - I would like to invite you to meet with the PCT boards on the morning of Monday 5 November at County Hall in Lewes.

Currently - in addition to the four options proposed by the PCT boards themselves - there are a further seven options on the table for consideration, including yours. In order to ensure that all proposers are treated equally and fairly the boards intend to allow each proposer 10 minutes to present their case and a further 15 minutes to address any questions the boards may have. Allowing a few minutes for coming into and leaving the Council Chamber that would give each proposer a half hour slot. We intend to be strict on timing, and plan to hear from the first new option proposer at 9am and to continue thereafter with different proposers at half hourly intervals until lunchtime.

We have some flexibility in terms of the order in which we hear from proposers. We do not need to hear from people in any particular order. I would therefore invite you to contact Lisa Price on 01323 747720 at your earliest convenience to confirm whether you wish to accept this invitation to meet with the PCT boards and to select an appropriate time slot. Time slots will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis so I would urge you to make contact as swiftly as possible.

The Council Chamber at Lewes is large enough to accommodate the joint boards and a small number of invited key stakeholders but not to accommodate a large number of members of the public. We are, therefore, arranging for the proceedings to be webcast in order that people can watch live if they choose to do so.

In order to be fair to all proposers we are limiting the total number of "presenters" to three per proposal. You do not need to bring three presenters along but you may bring up to three.

I do hope you will be able to join us on the morning of Monday 5 November and I look forward to seeing you then.

Kind regards



Nick Yeo
Chief Executive