

To:  
Cllr Belsey  
Chair  
Health Overview Scrutiny Committee  
East Sussex County Council,  
County Hall,  
St Anne's Crescent,  
Lewes,  
East Sussex BN7 1UE

Michael Ridgwell  
STP Programme Director  
Magnitude House  
New Hythe Lane,  
Aylesford,  
Kent ME20 6WT

12/10/2017

Dear Cllr Belsey,

**Re.: Kent and Medway Review of Stroke Services**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the senior responsible officer (SRO) for the review of stroke services in Kent and Medway to update you on the work we are undertaking and ask how you would like us to work with you.

You may be aware that we have been reviewing how acute stroke services are provided in Kent and Medway. Our proposal would see a move away from the seven acute hospitals in Kent and Medway all providing acute stroke services to a smaller number of the hospitals providing hyper acute stroke units (HASUs), collocated with acute stroke units. This would mean not all hospitals would provide acute stroke care but we firmly believe that through developing HASUs we will significantly improve outcomes for patients. This view is supported by clear research evidence that demonstrates the potential benefit to patients of delivering care in the way we are proposing. Information on the service model we are looking to adopt, and the hurdle criteria that are being used for the initial evaluation of our long list of options, is included in the paper included with this letter.

There are also a number of patients from outside Kent and Medway that use local services. I have included a paper that details patient flows into Kent and Medway from neighbouring CCG areas. This also makes an assessment of the size of the neighbouring populations, from which these patients come, that look to Kent and Medway hospitals for stroke services. We think this provides a useful context for your considerations on how you wish us to engage and consult with you.

We shortly hope to be in a position to present information to NHS England asking for their agreement to initiate consultation, subject to formal agreement by the CCGs and consultation with the health and overview and scrutiny committees. Our hope is to get out to consultation early in 2018. Kent and Medway CCGs are setting up a joint CCG committee with delegated responsibility to take forward the stroke review. Bexley CCG and High Weald, Lewes and Havens CCG will also be members of the CCG joint committee.

With regard to working with and consulting with the HOSCs, the Kent and the Medway committees have established a joint committee (JHOSC). The intention is meet with the JHOSC in November to provide an update and more detail on the next steps and then again in January to consult on the

proposals we are looking to publicly consult on and our consultation plan. We would welcome your guidance on how you would like us to engage and consult with you as we progress the stroke review. I have also copied in Cllr Purdy who is chairing the JHOSC and the HOSC officers from the two councils should you wish to liaise with them directly.

We would be very happy to discuss further or present to the HOSC if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Ridgwell  
**Programme Director**  
**Kent and Medway STP**

**Cc:**

Ashley Scarff, Director of Commissioning and Deputy Chief Officer  
Claire Lee, Support Officer, East Sussex County Council  
Lizzy Adams, Scrutiny Research Officer, Kent County Council  
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer, Medway Council  
Cllr Purdy, Chair, Kent and Medway Joint HOSC