

SofS48595

Dr Peter Barrett
Chair
Independent Reconfiguration Panel
Keirran Cross
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London WC2N 5HR

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
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Tel: 020 7210 3000

13 MAY 2008

Dear Peter

Referral of the decision by the East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT to reconfigure maternity and related services provided by East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.

Thank you for completing an initial assessment of the documentation relating to the referral from the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the East Sussex Downs & Weald and Hastings & Rother PCTs Fit for the Future proposals to reconfigure maternity and related services provided by East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust. Your letter of 29 April states that the IRP would be willing to undertake a full review of the proposals as set out in the referral and I would be grateful if this could commence with immediate effect.

Annex A sets out Terms of Reference for the review.

The panel's advice to me on this case should be provided in accordance with these Terms of Reference. I look forward to receiving your advice.

*Yours sincerely
Alan*

ALAN JOHNSON

Cc:

Candy Morris, CE, NHS South East Coast

Nick Yeo, CE, East Sussex Downs & Weald Primary Care Trust and Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust

Kim Hodgson, CE, East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
David Flory, Director General, Performance and Operations, DH
Mark Britnell, Director General, Commissioning, DH
Jo Lenaghan, Chief Adviser to David Nicholson
Nigel Waterson MP for Eastbourne
Norman Baker MP for Lewes
Charles Hendry MP for Wealden
Gregory Barker MP for Bexhill and Rye
Michael Foster MP for Hastings and Rye

Annex A

Referral of the decision by the East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT to reconfigure maternity and related services provided by East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.

Terms of reference

The panel is asked to advise the Secretary of State by 31 July 2008:

- a) whether it is of the opinion that the proposals for the reconfiguration of maternity and specialist baby care and inpatient gynaecology services provided by East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust will ensure the provision of safe, sustainable and accessible services for local people, and if not, why not;
- b) on any other observations the Panel may wish to make in relation to the proposals; and
- c) on how to proceed in the interests of local people, in light of (a) and (b) above and taking into account the HOSC's referral letter of 31 March 2008.

It is understood that in formulating its advice the Panel will pay due regard to the principles set out in the IRP's general terms of reference.