

20 March 2007

To all Stakeholders

Dear Colleague

**Re: Creating an NHS Fit for the Future
Public Consultation**

As you may be aware, NHS organisations locally have been discussing and debating with clinicians, the public and other key stakeholders the future shape for health services across East Sussex. We want to create a local NHS that is fit for the future and delivers services that offer:

- Quality and clinical safety
- Access and choice
- Value for money

As a result of these discussions, we are about to move to a period of formal public consultation about the future of our local services, with particular reference to maternity, special baby care and gynaecology services.

At a joint Board meeting of East Sussex Downs and Weald and Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), the Board confirmed that the proposals will go forward to public consultation. The consultation will start on Monday 26th March 2007, or as soon after as possible, and run for 15 weeks.

We are holding a series of public meetings during the consultation period and welcome attendance from any interested individuals, organisations and members of the public. Dates and times are detailed as follows: -

Seaford	Monday 26 th March	6.30pm	Seaford Baptist Church, Main Church Hall, Belgrave Road, Seaford BN25 2EE
Hastings	Tuesday 27 th March	7pm	White Rock Theatre, Hastings TN34 1JX
Eastbourne	Tuesday 3 rd April	7pm	Gold Room, Winter Garden, Eastbourne BN21 4BP
Crowborough	Tuesday 8 th May	7pm	Beacon Community College, East Beeches Road, Crowborough TN6 2AS
Newhaven	Wednesday 9 th May	2pm	Hillcrest Community Centre, Hillcrest Road, BN9 9EA
Bexhill	Friday 11 th May	2pm	St Peter's Community Centre, Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill TN40 2HE
Uckfield	Tuesday 15 th May	11am	The Weald Hall, Uckfield Civic Centre TN22 1AE
Hailsham	Tuesday 22 nd May	10.30am	Hailsham Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX

East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT

Hastings and Rother

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Primary Care Trust Headquarters
36 – 38 Friars Walk, Lewes East Sussex BN7 2PB
01273 485300
www.eastsussexdownswealdpct.nhs.uk

Rural Rother	Wednesday 30 th May	2pm	Main Hall, Thomas Peacocke Community College, The Grove, Rye TN31 7NQ
Lewes	Monday 18 th June	7pm	Assembly Room, Town Hall, Lewes (via Fisher Street) BN27 2DG
Hastings	Monday 25 th June	2pm	White Rock Theatre, Hastings TN34 1JX
Eastbourne	Monday 2 nd July	2pm	Gold Room, Winter Garden, Eastbourne BN21 4BP

All meetings are planned to last 2 hours.

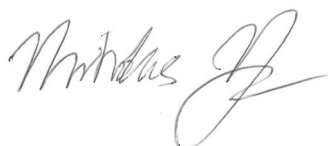
In addition to these meetings, senior members of the PCT are happy to attend existing groups and forums to present the options for change and to answer questions. If you would like to arrange for someone to attend a meeting, please contact Angela Paice by email angela.paice@esdwpct.nhs.uk or on 01323 747710.

Once consultation formally starts on 26th March, or as soon after as possible, we will be sending you further detailed information outlining the proposals. In addition to this, a dedicated website will be available, which will include all the information we send out, plus additional information as the consultation progresses. The website address will be www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk - and will be available after 26th March.

We are committed to keeping you informed.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Nick Yeo
Chief Executive