

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3976

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

08 May 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to clinical service closures (STP).

1. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading any clinical services/facilities over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*
Specifically:
 2. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading A&E services over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*
 3. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading any cancer services over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*
 4. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading any maternity services over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*
 5. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading any stroke services over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*
 6. A) *Are you planning on closing or downgrading any hospitals over the next 3 financial years – up to 2020?*
B) *If so, which services?*

All the NHS organisations in Kent and Medway are working together, and with Kent County Council and Medway Council, on their plans for future health and care services as part of the Kent and Medway Health and Social Care Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

1.
 - A) Please see responses below.
 - B) Please see responses below.

Specifically:

2.

A) & B) None of the trusts in Kent and Medway currently has any plans to close or downgrade A&E services over the next three financial years. East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust is currently considering the provision of emergency and acute medical services as part of the STP work.

3.

A) & B) None of the trusts in Kent and Medway currently has any plans to close or downgrade cancer services over the next three financial years. We are looking at how we can achieve better outcomes for patients and meet all the cancer service standards, which we are not currently achieving. We are exploring what model of care would allow us to achieve this.

4.

A) & B) None of the trusts in Kent and Medway currently has any plans to close or downgrade maternity services over the next three financial years.

5.

A) & B) Over the last two years, the clinical commissioning groups in Kent and Medway have led engagement with stroke staff, the public, stroke survivors, carers and the Stroke Association, and stakeholders including GPs, Kent County Council and Medway Council about stroke services in Kent and Medway. This process has been overseen by the Stroke Review Programme Board which has recommended a public consultation about creating a smaller number of hyper-acute / acute stroke units in Kent and Medway. These would provide seven day services which meet the national best practice standards for stroke. None of the hospitals in Kent and Medway currently meets the national standards. There is currently no date set for the start of the public consultation.

6.

A) & B) The clinical commissioning groups in east Kent are currently working with East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust on a model of care which makes the best use of all three of the trust's acute (main) hospitals. This is expected to involve some reorganisation and consolidation of services. There is on-going engagement with the public and with local consultants, GPs and other clinical staff about this.

The rest of Kent and Medway will also review the pattern of hospital services in the area as part of the Kent and Medway sustainability and transformation plan to ensure the health and social care system can meet the challenges it has recently set out in its 'case for change' which can be found at www.kentandmedway.nhs.uk/stp/caseforchange . There is no fixed timescale for this review yet and there is other more immediate work going on to develop enhanced services for people in local communities and outside of hospital settings.

If you have any queries about this letter please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write in the first instance to:

Mr Glenn Douglas
Chief Executive
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent ME16 9QQ

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the Information Commission cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Chief Executive's Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Gail Spinks
Head of Information Governance

FOI Applicant Feedback

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust constantly reviews the services that we provide in order to ensure that we deliver the highest quality possible to our service users. In order to assist with this process we would ask you please to take a couple of minutes to provide us with some feedback with regard to the FOI service that you have been provided.

FOI Request reference Number	
Did you find it easy to make a request for information?	Yes / No
Did you receive an acknowledgement within a reasonable timeframe?	Yes / No
Are you satisfied that your request was dealt within a timely manner?	Yes / No
Did the response content address the requirement of your request?	Yes / No
What if anything do you feel the Trust could do differently to improve the FOI service for the benefit of our service users?	

Please send this completed form to:

Mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net or

G Spinks
Head of Information Governance
Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent ME16 9QQ