

## APPENDIX 2

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Councillor Wildey  
Medway Council  
Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham  
ME2 4AU

17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Councillor Wildey,

### **Re: Proposed temporary change to the stroke service at MTW.**

I am writing to update you on a proposed temporary and emergency change to the stroke service provided by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW). As you are aware MTW currently operate two services at both hospital sites. While the Trust has improved its overall vacancy rate following a robust recruitment drive, they still have a high number of nursing vacancies on the stroke ward at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, and are also facing a particular pressure in their thrombolysis service.

As a result, from late September MTW will be temporarily consolidating their stroke care on one site at Maidstone Hospital in order to ensure they can continue to offer patients safe stroke care. It is the view of the MTW Board that there is a risk to the safety and welfare of both patients and staff, if the stroke service continues on the Tunbridge Wells Hospital site in light of the staffing challenges beyond September.

It is anticipated the change will mean patients in Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas will be transferred directly to Maidstone Hospital, if a stroke is suspected. Currently ambulances transporting suspected stroke patients are already being diverted during the night and increasingly during the day to Maidstone Hospital.

This temporary change to stroke services in the west of Kent will not impact on patients in Medway, however I wanted to write to you personally to be absolutely clear that this is not early implementation of the stroke review and we are very mindful of the outstanding review by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel following your referral to the Secretary of State, and the two applications for Judicial Review that are currently being considered by the Court. The Trust have confirmed they will comply with the final outcome of the review and referral, whatever that may be, and the temporary proposed change to the stroke service is reversible.

I hope this update is helpful, however if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Jones

SRO Stroke Review

Cc Jon Pitt

Nicola Smith

Adam Wickings

Sean Briggs.

Stuart Jeffery