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Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Health
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Date: 12th November 2003
Ref: RM/dt/erh

Dear Gerry

Thank you very much for the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted in response to the PCT's Recovery and Delivery Proposals as outlined in 'Living Within Our Means'. The PCT were pleased to be able to collaborate with you and your members during the Consultation process and to engage in useful discussion to address the challenges that the local Health Community faces.

The acknowledgement made in your report of the financial reality and the fact that the PCT did need to achieve savings was welcomed, as was the support you gave to the approach we had taken to our Consultation process.

The PCT has taken careful note of the seven recommendations that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee provided to us. I am attaching a copy of the PCT's response to these. The points raised were also supported by the PCT's own findings from the Public Consultation and the additional report we received from the Community Health Council.

In consideration of these views the PCT has amended its proposals in four significant ways:

- An increase in the reinvestments for Community Based Services with a commitment to maintain funding for respite care for those families who have been receiving this from the NHS.
- The commitment to reuse the released capacity in Community Hospitals for services transferred from the Royal United Hospital (RUH).
- The decision to not proceed with the relocation of Keynsham Clinic Services in the short term.
- A commitment to work towards improving health care facilities in Keynsham by establishing a new Health Park provision that will amalgamate current services and improve local facilities.

You will be aware that the PCT Board considered the revised proposals described in the paper Recovery & Delivery 'Living Within Our Means' at its meeting on 30th October; a copy of which you have already received. The recommendations as outlined in that paper were approved by the Board and the PCT will now be making plans to implement these.

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Further work is now needed to establish detailed implementation plans, which fulfil the PCT's promise to make sure Community Services are in place prior to redirecting patients from the Community Hospital beds. In addition we will now be working closely with the RUH on plans for the transfer of services to the released capacity in the Community Hospitals.

I would like to thank the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its contribution in helping us to realise plans, which both achieve savings and maintain our commitment to Community Hospitals and Community based services.

Yours sincerely

Rhona MacDonald
Chief Executive
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cc David Langman

Enc.

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