



**Kent and Medway Cancer Network**  
50 Pembroke Court  
Chatham Maritime  
Chatham  
ME4 4UF

16<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Our Ref: SD/NG/ivbnct

For the attention of: All Stakeholders within Kent & Medway

*(sent via email to avoid delay)*

Dear Colleagues

**RE: Kent and Medway Cancer Network**

The Kent & Medway Cancer Network (KMCN), which was established in 1999 following the Calman Hine Report, will cease to exist in its current format after the 31st March 2013 as a result of the NHS reforms.

The plans are to replace the current Networks with Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) which will cover a larger geography in line with the new Clinical Senate of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The new SCNs will have a generic approach covering not just cancer, but also cardiac and stroke, maternity and child health, mental health, dementia and neurological conditions. These new organisations will have fewer support staff than are currently available and will be focused on improving quality and outcomes in line with the NHS Outcomes Framework. We are advised that the SCNs will build on the legacy of the existing configuration of Networks and will have clinical, patient and public engagement at their heart.

We have attached a copy of the "The Way Forward: Strategic Clinical Networks" which outlines the vision for the SCNs in the new NHS. The specific details of the SCN work programme are still being finalised and Deborah Tomalin has now been appointed as the Associate Director of the SCNs/Senate for Kent, Surrey and Sussex to support that process.

As yet we are still awaiting more details on what this means for KMCN led groups, such as the Clinical Advisory Team (CAT), Disease Orientated Groups (DOGs), and their various sub groups (i.e. Non-surgical Oncology Sub Groups (NOGs), Research and Trials Groups (RATs)), Cross Cutting Advisory Groups (CCAGs) and the User/Patient Partnership Groups. We will let you know as soon as more information becomes available.

Hospital Trusts will still be required to have Network-wide clinical guidelines, agreed configurations and a collective review of audit, all of which we will be supporting the Trusts over the next couple of months on how these can be achieved alongside the emerging Operational Delivery Networks.

Meetings are currently being held between the Network, commissioner and provider organisations to assess the risks and implications associated with the closure of the KMCN in its current format and how these risks might be mitigated.

We can confirm that it has been announced by the National Peer Review Team that any assessment against the Network Group and Network Board measures are suspended for 2013/14. However, the Trust level measures will still fall into the assessment cycle.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and input to the Network over the years, we have jointly achieved a great deal to improve services for people with cancer and been an innovative and forward thinking Network which will leave a lasting legacy across Kent & Medway.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background, reading "Stewart Dicker".

**Stewart Dicker**  
**Clinical Director, Quality & Care**  
**Kent & Medway Cancer Network**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background, reading "Nic Goodger".

**Nic Goodger**  
**Medical Director, Secondary Care**  
**Kent & Medway Cancer Network**

*Enc.*