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Dartford and Gravesham
NHS Trust

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9 September 2017

Dear Ms Kilkie

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Stakeholder Council

The Trust is very pleased to announce that it is establishing a Stakeholder Council. The Stakeholder Council has no statutory responsibilities but may be invited by the Trust to suggest improvements or changes and on occasion be the final decision making body.

The Stakeholder Council will not undertake any operational management of the Trust but will provide a vital link to the wider community and contribute to debate and decisions within the organisation. The Stakeholder Council has a real say in the future priorities, may contribute to who fills key posts on the Board (such as the appointment of a new Chairman), and in highlighting important issues to the Board via the Stakeholder Council meetings.

Stakeholder Council members may participate in working groups to be established by the Directors on specific developments for the Trust and report their progress through the Stakeholder Council meetings to the appropriate forum including the Trust Board.

The Trust intends to embrace the opportunity that having a Stakeholder Council and has previously had a successful Council of Governors when it was pursuing Foundation Trust status. Since the Trust is no longer following this course the Council of Governors has been stood down and the Stakeholder Council is being established. This will ensure that there is a voice for community stakeholders within the Trust.

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Gravesham Borough Council to nominate representatives (maximum 2) for the Trust's Stakeholder Council. Councillor Leslie Hills, c/o Committee Section, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU has previously been an active member of the previous Council of Governors and has indicated that he would be happy to be part of the Stakeholder



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Council. If there is another Councillor that would be willing to join then I would be grateful if you could let me have their details so that I might formally write to them with an invitation to sit on our Stakeholder Council for this year.

It is envisaged that there will be up to four meetings per year where matters concerning the Trust will be discussed and stakeholder opinion sought. Stakeholder Council members are also invited to the Annual General Meeting held in September each year and of course may attend the open session of the monthly Board meeting along with any other member of the public. The first meeting of the Council is set for late October 2017 to be held at Darent Valley Hospital and date and venue details will be finalised in the near future.

We would expect that each meeting would last up to two hours and would include presentations by senior Trust staff on topical issues such as service development and future plans. I would be grateful if you could let me know who the nominated individuals are with their contact details so that I can write to them and formally invite them to the meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Burr
Trust Secretary



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