

**Peter Oakford – Member for Tunbridge Wells North
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategic
Commissioning & Public Health**

**Thanet Health & Wellbeing Board
Canterbury & Coastal Health & Wellbeing
Board
South Kent Coast Health & Wellbeing Board
Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board
DGS Health & Wellbeing Board
West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board
Swale Health & Wellbeing Board**

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Ask For: Peter Oakford
Date: 4 June 2018

Dear Chairman

I am writing to officially inform you that on 22nd March 2018 the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to create a joint health and wellbeing board with Medway Council.

Given these new arrangements I wanted to clarify the relationship between the Kent Board and Local Boards. The Kent Board is keen for Local Boards to be able to respond to the emerging commissioning arrangements of the STP as they see fit. This position supports the findings of the review that I carried out last Summer where it was clear that there was a mixed view about the future for Local Boards. A number of respondents made the point that local Boards could not be separated from the emerging place based sub-structure for delivery of the STP. There was widespread expectation that whatever new integrated health and social care arrangements might be created through the STP, these will have a local footprint (most likely through Integrated Care Systems) that would inevitably further challenge the purpose and role of local Boards

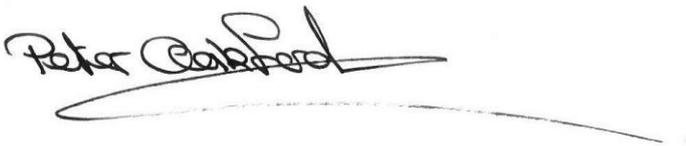
Local Boards will be considering how to move forward in a way that makes sense in their local geography and ensures the local democratic voice continues to influence commissioning of local health and care services in the most effective way. This may mean that local Boards develop beyond their current Health and Wellbeing Board arrangements.

Local arrangements are already evolving in response to the newly emerging context for health and social care commissioning, for example West Kent HWB has recognised the need for a re-refresh to strengthen opportunities for partnership working

and collaboration and with effect from 20 February 2018, the West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board was disbanded. In its place, a new West Kent Health and Wellbeing Elected Member Forum will be established. To support these changes and to acknowledge the reduced meetings of the Kent Board it will no longer be necessary to report and send local board meeting minutes to the Clerk of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

The future of Local Boards is entirely in the gift of each local area and I shall look forward to seeing how they evolve in the months ahead. As the chair of the Kent HWB, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and valued contribution to the health and wellbeing agenda for Kent.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Oakford', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter J. Oakford

**Chair of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board
KCC Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member for Strategic Commissioning & Public Health**