



meeting      **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date              **27 September 2005**              agenda item number

### **Consultation project – burns injuries**

#### **1      Purpose**

To inform Members of a consultation project being lead by Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority and seek views on this Committee's possible involvement.

#### **2      Background**

A letter has been received from Ms Candy Morris, Chief Executive of Kent and Medway SHA (appendix A), which proposes a consultation project regarding improving the health outcomes for people with the most complex burn injuries in Britain.

#### **3      Issues**

Over the past 2 years the National Burn Care Group (NBCG) has been taking forward the recommendations from the National Burn Care Review in March 2001.

Basically the NBCG is recommending that straightforward burn injuries be treated at Burn Facilities, normally located in district general hospitals. Specialist burn services would be offered by Burn Units from those hospitals already treating more serious burn victims. A few of these Units would also act as the regional Burn Centre for those patients requiring complex or intensive care. The Centres could also act as Facilities or Units for their local populace. The Centres would be established around the country based on a critical mass of cases that support good practice and optimum recovery outcomes. These Facilities, Units and Centres would work together in four managed networks; north-east, north-west, central and south.

By around the end of September, a sub-group of the NBCG will be in a position to propose where the Facilities, Units and Centres should be

placed. A public consultation is envisaged to begin in December 2005 for three months.

The consultation process will involve health scrutiny committees and Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIF) joining together for the purpose of making a formal response to the issues. Regional meetings attended by NCBG representatives are proposed, as is the establishment of a website complete with background information for Members on the issues.

Ms Morris is seeking expressions of interest by 30 September 2005.

#### **4 Options**

- To register interest in participating in this consultation; or
- To not be involved in this process.

#### **5 Recommendation**

That Members discuss the merits of involvement in this consultation project and, if choosing to participate, agree a process to ensure the County Council's views are taken into account by the NCBG.

**Councillor James T Napier**  
**Chair, Health Committee**

Background papers:  
Nil