

## Craig Mackinlay MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Carly Jeffrey  
15 Belmont Road  
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Kent CT11 7QG

Dear Ms Jeffrey

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on Friday 29 June to discuss the proposals for reform of urgent stroke services in Kent and Medway, and also for your subsequent emails of 2nd, 6th, 7th, 16th and 24<sup>th</sup> July. I note that you have been to my office again today seeking another appointment. As you are aware, I have 100,000 residents to help and act for. This means that time is necessarily limited as I have a permanent demand for help at face-to-face appointments. To see you again within such a short time, with a background of 'no change' to your stance, viewpoint and activism (which I am more than hugely sympathetic to) means that I simply do not have the time resource available to see you again just now.

I note the information you have provided from Dr Tony Martin, the British Medical Association and others. I am also fully aware of your opposition to these proposals, which you have previously submitted to the consultation. Since our Surgery appointment I have met with senior officials of Thanet CCG, in an extended one-to-one meeting covering all aspects of health provision in Thanet, services at QEQM, general practice provision and community support. Stroke services formed a large part of our discussions. The CCG are fully aware of local concerns and readily admitted that they needed to do significantly more to justify any reconfiguration of services, including providing greater evidence. They highlighted the Greater Manchester experience as a useful example to consider further as a close blueprint to the direction they are considering.

In respect of your wish that your concerns about the future of stroke services are raised in Parliament, my firm belief remains that that professional clinicians have a greater understanding of stroke diagnosis and treatment than politicians or political activists. To this end, the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups intend to agree their preferred option for implementation this winter. I will be examining this in great detail, and will welcome your input at that time.

As I said at our meeting, you can be assured that I am fighting for QEQM to maintain as broad a spectrum of full range services, and full A&E, as part of this process. Given our geographical position, I have no fears at all that as full a range of specialisms as possible will remain at QEQM into the future.

For your information I am enclosing a briefing note update that I received today from Thanet CCG. The concerns expressed are well recognised. I am liaising closely with Sir Roger Gale throughout. We will get to the right conclusion I am sure.

Yours sincerely  
Craig Mackinlay

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