

Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Ethelbert Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 3NG

Medway Maritime Hospital
Windmill Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 5NY

24 May 2016

Letter of Intent between East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and Medway NHS Foundation Trust to provide Vascular Services

Further to our recent discussions, the purpose of this letter is to set out the principles upon which EKHUFT and MFT will work together to develop the Kent and Medway Vascular Network.

The development of the Vascular Network is as a result of and based on the findings of the current review of the provision of Kent and Medway Vascular services undertaken by NHS England. That work has an agreed case for change and has described a networked approach as the clinical model of choice.

Further to our conversations at executive and clinical levels, we are therefore proposing to agree to develop an Integrated Vascular Network. The network solution will be developed on a model with a single arterial centre and a more diverse multi-site model for non-arterial centres. We are in agreement that the arterial major inpatient centre would be based in East Kent on a Trust site and a non-arterial centre would be in Medway. This would include services such as renal access; fistula salvage and day case Interventional Radiology. Other hospitals in Kent and Medway could contribute to the network solution as non-enhanced non-arterial centres mainly providing outpatient services for the local population.

We both recognise the importance of the provision of Interventional Radiology for both vascular and non-vascular services across the network on both sites. It is acknowledged that all non-vascular interventional radiology and day case vascular (subject to clinical agreement on appropriate cases) should be fully supported at Medway. Co-operative working within this speciality between the two organisations will support this.

We would expect to jointly develop the network and agree that we should appoint a Clinical Lead and a Network Manager to progress the model of care and develop the plan to transition the current models of care to that of the determined network model. This work would include the development of joint pathways between EKHUFT and MFT and would describe a sustainable, jointly appointed, workforce model for the future. The safety of patients will be paramount in all decisions made about the Integrated Vascular Network.

Our organisations will remain responsible for their own costs in connection with developing this letter of intent and the network.



The urgent next steps to progress the development of the network are:

- To sign the letter of intent;
- To establish a network governance framework;
- For EKHUFT and MFT to write a joint paper for respective Board approval.

When these actions are complete we can then proceed to commence developing the network, including securing the required legal advice and confirming key milestones and timescales.

I am very much looking forward to our two organisations developing the Vascular Network solution in partnership to ensure Kent and Medway safe, high quality and sustainable vascular and interventional radiology services for the future.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Kershaw
Chief Executive
EKHUFT



Lesley Dwyer
Chief Executive
MFT

