

Notes from Address to Shepway DC Council Meeting by Mr Howard Jones, Director of Facilities of the East Kent NHS Hospitals' Trust on 13 June 2007

- Thank you for the invitation to speak to the full council tonight on our plans for RVH
- With my colleague Matthew Kershaw I addressed the Community Overview Committee in February and welcome the opportunity to report back now to the full council
- In summary, our plan is to invest £2.5M in the RVH to enhance its role as a local hospital for Folkestone and Shepway residents offering a wide range of out-patient services but at the same time, disposing of the largely unused Victorian section to save £1.2M pa and raise capital for its upgrading
- All existing healthcare services will stay including the Derry Unit.
- In fact this unit will be relocated in a suite of rooms in the new wing providing an excellent setting for this service
- We have spent the last few months doing detailed design studies with our colleagues from the Eastern & Coastal Kent PCT and the Kent & Medway Social Care Partnership Trust to ensure that through efficient space design, all the services are placed in good quality accommodation
- Our promise to the Community Overview Committee was that all services will stay and in an enhanced environment, we can now confirm that this promise will be met. We have listened to the messages received from public and civic leaders and acted accordingly.
- The £2.5M investment will provide a new digital X-Ray room to support the walk-in centre and out-patient sessions, a new passenger lift, upgraded out-patient facilities and a new Derry Unit
- Our programme is one of investment and improvement made possible through a more efficient use of the space available.
- We will be holding an Open Day On Wednesday 27 June and Saturday 30 June to which local people will be invited to see detailed plans of the refurbishment and the re-development of the site.

HMJ 13.6.07