

6th November 2003

Ms Clare Kaye - Asst Chief Executive
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DQ

Dear Ms Kaye

Investing in your Health – Decision following Public Consultation

I am writing to you about the recent decision on Investing in your health and to thank you for your help and support over many months.

Some of you were at the meeting where the decision was made and will know that after detailed feedback and discussion on the public consultation, a joint committee of the chairs of the eleven primary care trusts and strategic health authority agreed a series of measures aimed at creating a new model of healthcare for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

The committee unanimously supported:

Providing more resources for local care in community settings

Improving quality by concentrating specialist services such as inpatient paediatrics, obstetrics and other services

Carrying out planned surgery in new dedicated centres

Locating a cancer centre within the two counties

The joint committee by a large majority also gave its support to **Option 2** which proposes developing five of the six existing hospitals in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and building a new hospital at Hatfield to replace the QE11 hospital in Welwyn Garden City. The new hospital will also include the cancer centre.

To get to this decision has involved a lot of hard work by many of you. I would like to thank you for your help, encouragement and steadfastness. I know that everyone recognised the need for a clear decision and an opportunity to make real improvements to the NHS in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. We need to make up for lost time and to make health services better for patients.

There is still much to do to make these proposals a reality so I am asking for your continued support and help over the next few years as we move through the planning and implementation phases. Partnership is the key. We can achieve our goal by keeping in touch and working together.

Yours sincerely

John de Braux
Chief Executive