**Hospital Mental Health Referrals and Pathway Notes from JPPB Meeting April 2017**

There are 3 hospitals in Kent for people with mental health problems. Maidstone has 3 wards with 18 beds. Anyone can make a referral to MH services -there is a 24 hour single point of access number (shared previously ) and the crisis team operates a 24 hour service as well.

People can be sectioned: either to be assessed or because they are likely to harm themselves or others. This is initially for 1 month and then reviewed. Some patients are on observation while on the wards because they are at risk to themselves. Once admitted, the patient is assessed by a doctor, their risk assessment updated and they are given a welcome pack. Consultant sees patients once a week, but also there is a broad mix of staff delivering a day programme, Discharge is planned on the day the patient moves in. There is a care plan on the ward and a care plan on discharge. The crisis team will see patients every day.

Therapeutic wards have a much more joined up approach than previously. There are more therapists who work into the evenings and at weekends and the patients have more activities and the wards are calmer.

Discharge co-ordinators make the process much more seamless, making sure that there is follow up, looking at benefits, housing issues, safeguarding etc . If the care co-ordinator considers that the patient needs further care such as residential care or supported accommodation, they have to evidence, to two panels, that the patient still needs care and that every other single option has been looked at before going down this route. This is to prove that everything has been done to ensure that wherever possible, the patient has been properly assessed as to whether he/she is able to live independently.

Two wards in Maidstone are currently being upgraded, so while this is being done, the staff and patients from one ward will be moving to Dartford.

There are successful Rehab placements for patients. There are also packages of care for up to 15 hours per week without going to panels.