Further to your request for information dated 25 February 2016 the information requested is below:

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is committed to ensuring all people with learning disabilities are cared for in the most appropriate environment, preferably in community settings close to their home area. All Clinical Commissioning Groups across Kent are working jointly with Kent County Council to deliver the changes required following the Winterbourne Review.

It might be helpful to explain what the CCG has already achieved in Kent as a response to the Transforming Care agenda. The local in-patient assessment and treatment unit for people with learning disability (The Birling Centre) was decommissioned in 2014, closing 10 in-patient beds which served Kent and Medway health economy. The budget for the Birling Centre was fully reinvested in enhanced community learning disability (LD) services. The enhanced team now allows for more preventative interventions to be planned and delivered. Work in ongoing to embed the new care pathway and new ways of working in the community which will be supported through integrated LD Commissioning arrangements between the CCG and Kent County Council (KCC) from April 2016. The CCG has also entered into formal joint commissioning with KCC for children and young people in the 0-25 age group.

The care pathway for people with LD now includes a new Complex Care Response pathway that sets out how community practitioners from our 3 statutory sector providers; Kent and Medway Partnership Trust, Kent County Council and Kent Community Health Foundation Trust, come together to work intensively with an individual whose community support arrangements are at risk of breaking down and who is at risk of being admitted to hospital as a result. The aim of the Complex care Response part of the LD care pathway is to reduce the numbers of people with LD or ASC being admitted to in-patient services. Since these new elements of LD services have been commissioned in January 2015, the CCG has not been required to admit any adults with LD to specialist in-patient units such as the former Birling Centre.

Through the integrated commissioning arrangements, we work in partnership with the other CCGs in Kent and KCC, forming a Kent Transforming Care Partnership. Together with our partners we submitted the first draft of our Transforming Care Plan on 8 February 2016. Our plans have identified some gaps in our provision which we plan to address. These include:

- The provision of safe accommodation in the community as an additional measure to prevent inappropriate hospital admission. This will provide an additional resource to the enhanced community teams working with people at risk of admission

- Forensic outreach services. We are working with NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team on the development of a forensic outreach service which would enable people who my present a risk to themselves or the community to be
safely discharged and also work with people who may be at risk of offending to prevent admission.

- We are also applying to the national £30million fund to help develop further support for people with Autism who may challenge and/or have additional mental health problems through implementation of our new neurodevelopmental delay pathway.

Our plan estimates that we will need to have access to 48 beds across Kent to meet the needs of people with LD/Autism who present challenges or who may have additional mental health problems with the measures above and the continued work to discharge people we will be on track with our partners to reduce our reliance on specialist in-patient beds. There are now only 3 patients from the Dartford Gravesham and Swanley area that remain in inpatient services. Our in-house nursing team are regularly monitoring those patients to ensure they are receiving appropriate care to make sure that discharge planning is timely. Those 3 people do still require acute care at this time.

The CCG continues to work in collaboration with commissioning and provider partners, including Specialised Commissioning, to ensure that we have an appropriate range of community services and accommodation for people with LD or ASC.

Local procedures are in place to ensure that national care and Treatment Review Policy and Guidance is implemented for every patient who is referred for in-patient treatment. We are currently reviewing Tier 4 CAMHS admission procedures to ensure that CTRs are extending to this cohort during the early part of 2016/17.

Please do not hesitate to contact NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group again in April 2016 if you wish to see a copy of the CCG’s final plan.