



**For Immediate Release
Maidstone, January 2018**

KENT EVENT CENTRE AND KENT COUNTY SHOW TEAM WIN EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP AWARD FROM THE NHS

- The Kent Event Centre and Kent County Show Team have won an Emergency Planning and Partnership Award for 2017.
- The award recognises the team's strong planning efforts to reduce hospital admissions from their events which helps local hospitals.
- The team strive for high standard medical cover at all their events and the award has motivated continued efforts to support local hospitals in this way.
- For photographs of the Kent County Show and other events at the Kent Showground, please contact Becky at becky@kentshowground.co.uk

The Kent Event Centre and Kent County Show Team have been awarded the Emergency Planning and Partnership Award for 2017 from the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. The award recognises excellence in event planning and partnership with the NHS to avoid hospital admissions from events held at the Kent Showground.

Through careful planning and provision of adequate medical cover, the Kent County Show Team were able to keep hospital admissions from their biggest event, the Kent County Show, to a minimum. Of 80,000 visitors, 175 required medical care, of which only 9 were admitted to hospital. The Kent Event Centre team hosted forty-six events with low hospital admissions recorded at all events. With hospitals struggling under the pressures of high admissions, the award is given to recognise efforts to reduce the pressure on local hospitals from these large events.

John Weeks, Head of Emergency Planning and Response for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust commented "We have been impressed by the high standards applied at the Kent Showground in reducing hospital attendances and by the thorough planning that allows us to

work with medical providers to ensure they can use a range of alternative pathways and sources of advice other than referral to hospital.”

With planning already underway for the team’s 2018 events, Lucy Hegarty, Kent County Show manager, said “We are delighted to have received the Emergency Planning and Partnership Award for 2017. We take great efforts to ensure all our events have suitable medical cover and that all our visitors are well cared for should they require medical attention. This award has motivated us to work even harder to ensure we can provide the best medical service for our events and to help reduce the impact they have on local hospitals.”

For a full list of events held at the Kent Showground, visit www.kenteventcentre.co.uk or for more information about the Kent County Show, visit www.kentshowground.co.uk

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Notes to the Editors:

The Kent County Agricultural Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since its foundation in 1923. It provides grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs and offers university scholarships to students wishing to study in related fields. The Society also provides free education on farming to young children through the ‘Farming in the Classroom’ initiative and the Living Land event.

The Society organises the annual Kent County Show which is the county’s showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life. The Kent Event Centre is the commercial arm of the Kent County Agricultural Society and was formed in 1991 as a dedicated conference and events venue.

The Kent Event Centre at the Kent Showground is the largest conference facility in Kent offering 7,000sqm of indoor space along with 200 acres of outdoor space and parking for 10,000 vehicles. Comprising of four dedicated conference venues including the purpose-built Maidstone Exhibition Hall which boasts state of the art facilities and 3,000sqm of exhibition space. Also offering a variety of teambuilding activities using its outdoor spaces, the Kent Event Centre is equipped for a vast range of events from small board meetings to exhibitions and public shows.