

HOSC/45/16

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 27 July 2016

NORTH ESSEX PARTNERSHIP TRUST – PETER BRUFF WARD

Report by Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer

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Recommendation:

- (i) To seek further information and assurance from NEPFT attendees on the communications, engagement and governance processes around proposals for the Peter Bruff ward;
 - (ii) To consider any further information, representation or action required:
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Background

At the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1st June 2016, an issue was raised under the Public Questions item by Mr Tom Wood.

In summary, Tom Wood highlighted the intention by North Essex Partnership Foundation Trust (NEPFT) to relocate the Peter Bruff in-patient ward currently at Clacton Hospital to another location at Colchester Hospital. It was suggested that the 'relocated' ward at Colchester Hospital would not have the same classification as the ward being moved from Clacton despite there still being local demand for the acute in-patient beds currently being provided in the Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton Hospital.

In addition, during discussion, it was suggested that Governors at NEPFT felt that they had not been given sufficient notice or information, or been sufficiently consulted, on this proposal.

Consequently, the HOSC Chairman sent a letter to NEPFT requesting further information and clarification on the proposal (**Appendix 1**) and a response from NEPFT to that letter was received (**Appendix 2**) and considered by the HOSC at its last meeting on 29 June 2016.

The Committee felt that not all the points in the HOSC Chairman's letter had been addressed and that further information and assurances were needed. Therefore, NEPFT have been requested to attend the meeting to enable further discussion.

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In the meantime, the Committee considered that sufficient issues had already been raised around communication and engagement for it to be able to recommend the following to the Trust:

Recommendation: that the North Essex Partnership Trust should instigate an independent review of the communications and engagement undertaken for the proposed changes to the services provided at the Peter Bruff ward. The Committee suggests that you may wish to consult Healthwatch Essex for guidance and assistance on this.

The Trust have been asked to respond to this recommendation within 28 days.

(Appendix 3)

A copy of the current Action Plan to address Care Quality Commission concerns raised in an Inspection Report at the end of last year is also attached **(Appendix 4)** – page 7 of the Action Plan deals specifically with single sex wards which is particularly relevant to the deliberations on the changes to the Peter Bruff ward.