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3 June 2016

BY EMAIL

Christopher Butler, Interim Chief Executive
North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters,
Stapleford House,
103 Stapleford Close,
Chelmsford CM2 0QX

Dear Chris

PROPOSED CHANGES IN RELATION TO PETER BRUFF WARD

At the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1st June 2016, an issue was raised under our Public Questions item by Mr Tom Wood. The exact content of his question is reproduced overleaf.

In summary, Tom Wood highlighted the proposals 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 yesterday that the 'relocated' ward at Colchester Hospital will 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.

The HOSC yesterday was concerned to hear about the above issues and requested that NEPFT provide further information and clarification on the proposal for its next meeting to be held on 29 June 2016. In particular, can I ask that your written response to me includes the following:

1. Confirmation of the proposed change including the classification of the 'new' ward at Colchester Hospital;
2. What consideration has been given to the current and future anticipated demand for the service being provided in the Peter Bruff Ward?
3. What consideration has been given to any changes in patient accessibility to any relocated service?
4. Any relevant clinical and operational considerations.
5. The extent to which the NEPFT Board of Governors have been consulted and informed on the proposals.

In view that the HOSC needs further information and confirmation from you as to the exact proposal, it has not had any discussion yet as to whether it views the change to be material enough for it to be formally consulted. At the moment it is content to receive a written update from you for its next meeting.

For expediency, and so that your written response to me can be included in our agenda papers for the 29th June meeting, can I ask that you respond by Thursday 16th June 2016.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Reeves', followed by a long horizontal line.

Councillor Jillian Reeves
Chairman
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

c.c. Sam Hepplewhite, Chief Officer, North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (Lead Commissioner),
Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Essex County Council Cabinet Member, Health.
Barbara Herts, Director for Commissioning: Mental Health