



Mrs N Cox  
Parkview Clinic  
60 Queensbridge Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham  
B13 8QE

3 January 2007

Our ref: sc/56:730/20  
Ask for: Sandra Connolly

Dear Mrs Cox,

## **CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - TIER 4 INPATIENT CAMHS RECONFIGURATION - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2006 and the consultation paper regarding Tier 4 Inpatient CAMHS Reconfiguration. This letter reflects the considered views of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) in response to Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust's proposed changes.

In preparing this response the HOSC has undertaken the following:

- Held a meeting on 20 December 2006 to discuss the details of the proposal with yourself and Susanna McCorry-Rice, Director of Partnerships at Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust.
- Considered views from:
  - Worcestershire Primary Care Trust
  - Patient & Public Involvement Forum for Worcestershire PCT
  - Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
  - Worcestershire County Council

**Simon Geraghty**  
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Following the most helpful presentation and question and answer session on 20 December, Members of the HOSC agreed to offer the following comments on Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust's proposals for Tier 4 inpatient child and adolescent mental health services.

Perhaps the key concern of the HOSC is that child and adolescent mental health services are being looked at from the wrong end of the telescope. Members considered that a needs assessment should have been conducted prior to the structure of the Tier 4 CAMHS being reviewed. For this reason I am copying this letter to the local and regional commissioners of this service in order to impress upon them the need for such an assessment as a matter of some urgency. In the absence of a review of CAMHS by the commissioners, the HOSC considered that there is no basis for either of the Trust's proposed options.

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camhs.doc

Therefore, whilst we appreciate the difficulties the Trust is facing, we would urge you to also call for the review of services commissioned and that Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust's service reconfiguration should be placed on-hold pending such a review. Members had considerable sympathy for the Trust, recognising that CAMHS are simply trying to provide services commissioned by the SSA in-budget. However, this is in the absence of an informed understanding by all parties of what services are needed and what the level of demand is for such services, although there appears to be a general belief that the region is unlikely to need less beds in future and it therefore makes no sense to reduce capacity at this stage.

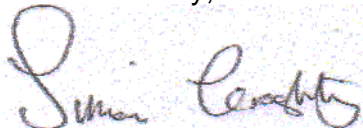
It is also worthy of comment that the Trust should have involved HOSCs from across the region at a much earlier stage in the process of reviewing service configuration, i.e. from early in 2005. Had this happened, calls for a needs assessment would have been more appropriately timed thus avoiding the HOSC's above call for the temporary suspension of the proposed reconfiguration.

A further area of significant concern related to systemic issues around the funding of placements. Although recognising that there will always be some specific services not directly provided by the NHS and therefore requiring purchasing from the private sector, Members found it ludicrous that whilst the Trust received insufficient funding to be able to make use of all available beds, the PCT was having to fund more expensive placements in the private sector. We would urge both providers and commissioners to work in closer partnership to address this anomaly.

Finally, there was general support for the direction of CAMHS and the shift towards community based services. To this end Members welcomed the Trust's recognition of the need to increasingly work in a proactive manner with Tier 2 and Tier 3 service providers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once more for meeting the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss your proposals for Tier 4 inpatient child and adolescent mental health services in more detail. I look forward to receiving your response, together with Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust's decision on the proposed reconfiguration as a result of the public consultation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Geraghty', with a horizontal line underneath.

Simon Geraghty  
Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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