

2 May 2014

Councillor Keith Mans
Chairman
Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board

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Hampshire County Council
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Dear Councillor Mans,

Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC): Monitoring of Adult Mental Health services

At our most recent meeting, held 29 April 2014, Members received a monitoring item on Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's adult mental health service in Hampshire, including the use of inpatient beds.

As you will be aware, the HOSC has monitored the implementation of the Trust's adult mental health service model since May 2012, following our review of this substantial change of service. Alongside information on community services, through which most care is now delivered by the Trust, the Committee's analysis of bed occupancy since this time has revealed that admissions to the acute beds has remained stable, but the ability of the Trust to discharge service users in a safe and timely way had had an impact on those requiring admittance. Resultantly, the Trust has regularly exceeded the 107 bed capacity within the service.

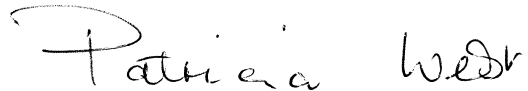
Members have heard that a number of work-streams are ongoing, both within the Trust and with commissioners, which it is hoped will address the issues experienced with delayed discharge. At our meeting in January 2014, when we last monitored this service, it was expected that the Trust would be able to demonstrate significant improvements to acute bed capacity by the next monitoring update. However, our meeting on 29 April showed that the Trust and their commissioners could not yet evidence that these work-streams have impacted on bed occupancy, and that more thought needs to be given to step-down care provision for those service users who are medically fit enough to leave an inpatient unit.

The Committee understands that the Health and Wellbeing Board are considering holding a seminar on the recent 'Closing the Gap: priorities for essential change in mental health' publication, and resolved to ask the Board to consider the above findings of the Committee. We feel that the Board is placed best to strategically consider the need for step-down services for adult mental health patients.

We additionally resolved to forward this topic on for further monitoring by the Health and Adult Social Care Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee should its creation be ratified by County Council on 30 May 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information on my comments above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Cllr Pat West
Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

cc Katrina Percy, Chief Executive, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust