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Sharon Pickering,
Director of Planning, Business Development
and Performance,
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust,
West Park Hospital
Edward Pease Way
Darlington
DL2 2TS

14 November 2016

Dear Sharon,

Reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient Wards serving County Durham and Darlington

I refer to my letter dated 9 May regarding the proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient wards serving County Durham and Darlington, and specifically to the reassurances requested by members of the Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC regarding the Trust's proposals to mitigate against the additional travel time for patients and their families/carers together with the associated extra costs of this, particularly for those people in receipt of benefits.

In respect of these concerns, the Committee requested that a detailed and fully costed action plan detailing how commissioners and providers will address and mitigate against such concerns will be produced and shared with patients, carers and families prior to any reconfiguration proposals being implemented. The Committee also wanted to have had sight of this plan.

I have been approached by Cllr Temple, a member of the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC with details of a specific case which suggests that not only is the mitigation plan not in place but that it is not being widely brought to patients, families and carers attention.

In view of this, the Committee would request that the Trust provide them with information regarding:-

Members

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ
Main Telephone (03000) 260000 Minicom (0191) 383 3802 Text 07786 02 69 56

- 1) How many patients have been admitted to Auckland Park who are experiencing a greater travel requirement than they would have done if Picktree Ward at Lanchester Road had remained open?
- 2) How many of those patients' relatives/carers have been provided with information and claim forms?
- 3) How many of those patients' relatives/carers have submitted claim forms?
- 4) Of those claim forms, what percentage have been agreed and mitigation payments made?

As you will be aware, the production of the mitigation plan was a cornerstone of the Committee supporting the proposed review and to learn that the information does not appear to be being shared with patients, families and carers is disappointing to say the least.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Robinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cllr John Robinson
Chair of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Durham County Council