



12/22 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8BS

Tel: [REDACTED]  
[www.publichealthagency.hscni.net](http://www.publichealthagency.hscni.net)

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

To: Trust Chief Executives

CC: Medical Directors  
Directors of nursing  
Directors of Acute Services  
Directors of Children's Services

26 September 2013

Dear Colleague,

**Increasing upper age limits for paediatric inpatient settings**

The Public Health Agency is hosting a workshop focusing on the professional issues faced by staff working in paediatric settings as we move to higher upper age limits for paediatrics. The workshop will take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013, 9.30am – 1.30pm**. We hope to host this workshop in Antrim and the venue will be confirmed as soon as possible.

**Action Required**

I would be grateful if you could nominate up to 5 representatives from your Trust to attend the workshop. It would be helpful if the nominees could include paediatricians and children's nurses as well as service managers for [REDACTED]. Please send your nominations to Dr Joanne McClean at [Joanne.McCclean@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:Joanne.McCclean@[REDACTED]) by **Friday 11 October 2013**.

**Background**

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority published its report on the care of children on adult wards in 2012. The report highlighted examples of good practice across Northern Ireland, but also made a number of recommendations to improve the inpatient care of children and young people.

The 2013/14 Commissioning Plan sets out the HSCB and PHA commissioning intentions in this area and specifically, that all Trusts will achieve a minimum upper age limit for paediatric care of the 14th birthday in 2013/14, 15th birthday in 2014/15 and 16th birthday in 2015/16.

The workshop will focus on clinical and professional issues, and aims to:

***Improving Your Health and Wellbeing***

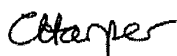
1. To provide a forum for Trusts to share learning and good practice in this area (this was a key recommendation of the RQIA report on the care of children on adult wards);
2. Explore the professional challenges staff, who work in paediatric environments, face as the upper age for paediatric care increases and consider options for addressing these

The workshop will include contributions from the Chair of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Young People's Health Special Interest Group. There will be representation from the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, Northern Ireland Professional Education Council, Universities and others involved in training.

The PHA/HSCB are committed to working with Trusts to achieve these upper age limits. This workshop is part of the step-wise implementation of higher upper age limits for paediatric care. Work looking at capacity planning for the inpatient and outpatient settings is being taken forward in parallel.

It is important that the professional and clinical issues are highlighted early in the process. I look forward to receiving your nominations for this workshop. If you have any queries, please contact Dr Joanne McClean, Consultant in Public Health Medicine at the email address above.

Yours sincerely



**DR CAROLYN HARPER**  
**Executive Medical Director/  
Director of Public Health**



**Pat Cullen**  
**Acting Director of Nursing  
and Allied Health Professionals**

***Improving Your Health and Wellbeing***