

Elaine Way
Chief Executive
Western Health and Social Care Trust
Altnagelvin Hospital
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Directorate of Commissioning

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Our Ref: DS/LETTERS/TrustWestern

Date: 14 July 2015

Dear Elaine,

DELIVERING AGE APPROPRIATE CARE

HSCNI is committed to improving care for adolescents in Northern Ireland. The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority undertook a review of this area in 2012 and one of their main recommendations was that a regional upper age limit for paediatric care was set. It is the Board's expectation that by March 2016 children up to their 16th birthday will typically be cared for in a paediatric environment. The draft DHSSPS paediatric strategy which should be published later in 2015 is expected to endorse this approach.

Moving to a regional upper age limit of 16th birthday will result in important improvements in care for children across Northern Ireland. In the majority of cases the clinical team with responsibility for the child will remain unchanged as the bulk of activity is in specialties like ENT which have joint paediatric and adult practice. However, in the case of adult medical specialties, which do not routinely look after children, care would transfer to paediatrics in most cases.

Delivering this important improvement will not increase overall activity in your Trust. However, there will be a shift in activity from adult to paediatric services. The scale of this in your Trust is relatively modest and is detailed in appendix one of this letter. I acknowledge that there will be a small number of occasions when the required care cannot be delivered on a paediatric ward e.g. obstetric care for teenagers.

I should be grateful if you would bring forward a plan outlining how your Trust will deliver age appropriate care for all 14 and 15 year olds by 31st March 2016. I look forward to receiving this plan by **30th September 2015**.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr Joanne McClean, Consultant in Public Health Medicine on 028 95363457 or email joanne.mcclean@hscni.net.

I look forward to receiving your plan by 30th September 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Sull.', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning

CC: Carolyn Harper
Mary Hinds
Paul Cavanagh
Teresa Magirr

Appendix one:

Table one: All inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in Altnagelvin hospital 2014/15. Source: HSCB information.

Ward on Admission	Specialty On Admission (R)	Admissions	Beddays
Acute Medical Unit Assessment	GENERAL MEDICINE	34	32
Anderson House	DERMATOLOGY	8	30
Childrens Unit	ENT	6	4
	GENERAL MEDICINE	6	7
	GENERAL SURGERY	19	36
	OPHTHALMOLOGY	1	3
	PAEDIATRICS	69	175
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	15	14
Coronary Care Unit Ward 44	CARDIOLOGY	1	1
Day Case Unit	ENT	1	0
	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
Elective Procedure Unit Floor9	ENT	3	3
	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	0
Eou Elective Orthopaedic Unit	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	32	59
Esu Emergency Surgery Unit 32	ENT	3	5
	GENERAL MEDICINE	13	24
	GENERAL SURGERY	18	52
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	1
Head And Neck (8th Floor)	ENT	44	62
	GENERAL MEDICINE	2	0
	GENERAL SURGERY	4	7
	ORAL SURGERY	9	8
Intensive Care Unit	ANAESTHETICS	3	14
Surgical Assesment Unit (32)	GENERAL SURGERY	49	20
Transitional Care Unit	PAEDIATRICS	9	19
Trauma & Orthopaedic Unit (2)	GENERAL SURGERY	1	4
	ORAL SURGERY	1	1
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	11	14
Ward 1 - General Medicine	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	3
Ward 20 - General Medicine	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
Ward 31 - General Surgery	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	0
	GENERAL SURGERY	11	17
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	2
Ward 4 - Gynaecology	ENT	1	1
	GENERAL MEDICINE	4	6
	GENERAL SURGERY	4	10
	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	5	16
Ward 41 - Acute Medical Unit	GENERAL MEDICINE	13	15
	NEPHROLOGY	1	1
Ward 44 - Cardiology	CARDIOLOGY	4	0
	GENERAL MEDICINE	2	0
Ward 45 - Ante Natal	OBS AND GYN (OBSTETRICS)	4	4
Ward 7 - Urology	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
	GENERAL SURGERY	4	3
	UROLOGY	1	2
Total		425	679

Table two: All inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds during 2014/15 SWAH. Source: HSCB Information.

Ward	Specialty	Admissions	Beddays
Cardiac Unit	CARDIOLOGY	1	2
Childrens Ward	GENERAL SURGERY	59	86
	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	7	6
	PAEDIATRICS	77	66
Day Procedure Unit	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
Ward 4	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	1	1
Total		146	162

Table three: All outpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in WHSCT during 2014/15. Source: HSCB Information.

Specialty	New Attendances	Follow up Attendances
CARDIOLOGY	29	14
CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY	2	8
DERMATOLOGY	135	174
ENT	115	116
GENERAL MEDICINE	21	28
GENERAL SURGERY	45	34
HAEMATOLOGY (CLINICAL)	0	1
NEPHROLOGY	2	1
NEUROLOGY	14	7
OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	32	28
OPHTHALMOLOGY	55	87
ORAL SURGERY	36	58
ORTHODONTICS	71	925
PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY	0	13
PAEDIATRICS	92	539
RHEUMATOLOGY	8	3
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	435	610
UROLOGY	20	10
Grand Total	1112	2656

The majority of the activity in the above table occurs in specialties with established joint paediatric and adult practice e.g. ENT, dermatology and T&O. The HSCB/PHA will work with the Trust to ensure pathways are put in place across NI to ensure access to local and specialist care as required.



