

Hugh McCaughey
Chief Executive
South Eastern Health and Social Care
Trust
Ulster Hospital
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT16 1RH

Directorate of Commissioning

*HSC Board Headquarters
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BS*

*Tel : 0300 555 1115
Web Site : www.hscboard.hscni.net*

Our Ref: DS/LETTERS/TrustSE

Date: 14 July 2015

Dear Hugh,

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 Sullivan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning

CC: Carolyn Harper
Mary Hinds
Paul Turley
Teresa Magirr

Appendix one:

Table one: All Inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in the Ulster Hospital during 2014/15. Source: HSCB Information.

Ward	Specialty	Admissions	Beddays
Uh Craig Ward	ENT	24	22
	GENERAL MEDICINE	67	194
	GENERAL SURGERY	46	74
	ORAL SURGERY	13	21
	PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	1	0
	PAEDIATRICS	10	55
	PLASTIC SURGERY	27	51
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	45	100
	UROLOGY	8	21
Uh Emergency Dept Lodged Ward	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	0
Uh Intensive Care Unit	ANAESTHETICS	1	1
Uh Maynard Sinclair Ward	PAEDIATRICS	8	17
Uh Medical Assessment (Wd 15)	GENERAL MEDICINE	28	59
	GENERAL SURGERY	1	6
Uh Neely Ward	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	3	5
Uh Rrs (Rapid Response Serv)	PAEDIATRICS	5	4
Uh Theatre [Day Cases]	UROLOGY	1	0
Uh Ward 10	PLASTIC SURGERY	1	2
Uh Ward 11	PLASTIC SURGERY	12	72
Uh Ward 13	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
Uh Ward 16	CARDIOLOGY	3	13
Uh Ward 18	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	0
Uh Ward 19	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	0
Uh Ward 6	GENERAL SURGERY	1	5
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	4
	UROLOGY	1	2
Uh Ward 7	GENERAL SURGERY	1	7
Uh Ward 8	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
Total		313	737

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

Ward	Specialty	Admissions	Beddays
Lv High Dependency	GENERAL MEDICINE	2	6
Lv Maternity Unit	MIDWIFE EPISODE	2	3
Lv Medical Assessment Unit	GENERAL MEDICINE	6	6
Lv Ward 1b	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
Total		11	16



Table three: All inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in Downe Hospital. Source: HSCB Information.

Ward	Specialty	Admissions	Beddays
Dh Ward 2	GENERAL MEDICINE	2	2
Total		2	2

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

Specialty	New Attendances	Review Attendances
CARDIOLOGY	24	10
DERMATOLOGY	74	95
ENDOCRINOLOGY	2	2
ENT	110	110
GENERAL MEDICINE	48	71
GENERAL SURGERY	40	13
GERIATRIC MEDICINE	1	0
HAEMATOLOGY (CLINICAL)	4	2
NEPHROLOGY	2	7
NEUROLOGY	37	30
OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	28	6
OPHTHALMOLOGY	21	8
ORAL SURGERY	106	96
PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	7	9
PAEDIATRICS	30	341
PLASTIC SURGERY	97	161
RHEUMATOLOGY	9	6
THORACIC MEDICINE	5	5
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	251	449
UROLOGY	8	12
Grand Total	904	1433

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.