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Directorate of Commissioning

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Our Ref: DS/LETTERS/TrustBelfast

Date: 14 July 2015

Dear Michael,

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 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
Iain Deboys
Teresa Magirr

Appendix one:

Table one: All inpatient activity in hospitals other than RBHSC during 2014/14. Source: HSCB information.

HOSPITAL	SPECIALTY	ADMISSIONS	BEDDAYS
BELFAST CITY HOSPITAL	DERMATOLOGY	1	10
	GASTROENTEROLOGY	1	7
	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	24
	HAEMATOLOGY (CLINICAL)	2	13
	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	3	5
	THORACIC MEDICINE	1	1
	THORACIC SURGERY	1	6
	UROLOGY	18	13
	CANCER CENTRE	1	3
BELFAST CITY Total		29	82
MATER HOSPITAL	ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	3	3
	CARDIOLOGY	3	1
	ENDOCRINOLOGY	7	8
	GASTROENTEROLOGY	11	13
	GENERAL MEDICINE	16	33
	GENERAL SURGERY	1	3
	GERIATRIC MEDICINE	5	10
	THORACIC MEDICINE	9	11
MATER HOSPITAL Total		55	82
MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL	REHABILITATION	2	180
	RHEUMATOLOGY	4	27
	T&O	68	180
MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL Total		74	387
ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL	ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	102	71
	ANAESTHETICS	3	242
	CARDIAC SURGERY	3	9
	CARDIOLOGY	12	10
	ENDOCRINOLOGY	3	13
	ENT	23	31
	GASTROENTEROLOGY	1	8
	GENERAL MEDICINE	74	199
	GENERAL SURGERY	94	121
	NEUROLOGY	7	25
	NEUROSURGERY	14	121
	OPHTHALMOLOGY	3	9
	PLASTIC SURGERY	4	13
	THORACIC SURGERY	4	14
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	42	111
	UROLOGY	1	0
ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL Total		390	997
Grand Total		654	1799

Table two: All outpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in Belfast Trust during 2014/15. Source: HSCB information.

Specialty	New attendances	Review attendances
ANAESTHETICS	1	0
CARDIAC SURGERY	1	1
CARDIOLOGY	178	204
CLINICAL GENETICS	55	24
CLINICAL NEURO-PHYSIOLOGY	64	0
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY	0	9
DENTAL MEDICINE	18	26
DERMATOLOGY	141	320
ENDOCRINOLOGY	36	37
ENT	212	184
GASTROENTEROLOGY	18	29
GENERAL MEDICINE	37	31
GENERAL SURGERY	53	33
HAEMATOLOGY (CLINICAL)	15	206
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY	5	216
NEPHROLOGY	7	179
NEUROLOGY	58	51
NEUROSURGERY	18	47
GYNAECOLOGY	60	20
OPHTHALMOLOGY	138	261
ORAL SURGERY	112	75
ORTHODONTICS	92	299
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	8	105
PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY	42	112
PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	23	108
PAEDIATRICS	134	971
PAIN MANAGEMENT	12	36
PLASTIC SURGERY	15	58
REHABILITATION	0	2
RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY	38	70
RHEUMATOLOGY	38	202
THORACIC MEDICINE	5	12
THORACIC SURGERY	31	11
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	781	1680
UROLOGY	31	12
Grand Total	2477	5631

The majority of the activity in the above table occurs in specialties with established joint paediatric and adult practice e.g ENT, dermatology and ophthalmology. 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.