

Paula Clarke  
Acting Chief Executive  
Southern Health and Social Care Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Craigavon Area Hospital  
68 Lurgan Road  
Portadown  
BT63 5QQ

Dear Paula,

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. I look forward to receiving this plan by **30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joanne.mcclean@hscni.net).

I look forward to receiving your plan by 30<sup>th</sup> 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  
Caroline Cullen  
Brid Farrell  
Teresa Magirr

## Appendix one:

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

Ward on Admission	Specialty On Admission (R)	Admissions	Beddays
1 North Ccu/Cardiology	CARDIOLOGY	1	3
1 South Medical	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	1
1 West Elective Admission Ward	ENT	21	18
	GENERAL SURGERY	3	9
	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	1	0
	UROLOGY	2	2
2 North Medicine (Respiratory)	GASTROENTEROLOGY	1	6
	GENERAL MEDICINE	3	9
3 North Paediatric	ENT	1	1
	GENERAL MEDICINE	3	3
	GENERAL SURGERY	2	4
	PAEDIATRICS	10	24
3 South Elective Ward	ENT	17	33
	GENERAL SURGERY	3	3
	UROLOGY	9	32
4n - Emergency Surgical Ward	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	23
	GENERAL SURGERY	65	135
	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	1	1
	UROLOGY	2	2
Clinical Decision Unit	ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	11	5
	GENERAL MEDICINE	4	3
	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
Dermatology Ward	DERMATOLOGY	1	11
Elective Admissions Ward	ENT	5	3
	UROLOGY	1	1
Gynaecology Ward	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	2	4
Induction Of Labour Ward	OBS AND GYN (OBSTETRICS)	3	14
Intensive Care Unit	ANAESTHETICS	3	51
Main Theatre	UROLOGY	1	1
Medical Admissions Unit	GENERAL MEDICINE	46	80
Orthopaedic	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	11	15
Trauma	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	27	77
Ward 1 West Gynae	OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	1	4
Ward 2 West Maternity	OBS AND GYN (OBSTETRICS)	2	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>580</b>



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

Ward	Specialty	Admissions	Beddays
Coronary Care	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	5
Daisy Hill Theatre	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
Dhh Day Clinical Centre	GENERAL SURGERY	2	1
Dhh Elective Admissions Ward	GENERAL SURGERY	2	4
Female Medical	GENERAL MEDICINE	6	7
Female Surgical	GENERAL MEDICINE	3	15
	GENERAL SURGERY	41	69
Female Surgical Day Case	ENT	1	0
General High Dependency Unit	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	11
Male Medical	GENERAL MEDICINE	13	20
Male Surgical	GENERAL SURGERY	33	58
Paediatric	GENERAL MEDICINE	1	2
	GENERAL SURGERY	1	1
	PAEDIATRICS	3	4
	THORACIC MEDICINE	1	0
Total		110	198

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

Specialty	New Attendances	Review Attendances
ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	101	77
CARDIOLOGY	31	2
CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY	0	3
CLINICAL NEURO-PHYSIOLOGY	34	0
DERMATOLOGY	120	218
ENDOCRINOLOGY	4	6
ENT	152	180
GASTROENTEROLOGY	23	28
GENERAL MEDICINE	17	5
GENERAL SURGERY	74	52
NEPHROLOGY	0	3
NEUROLOGY	54	32
OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	23	22
OPHTHALMOLOGY	15	21
ORAL SURGERY	46	1
ORTHODONTICS	54	665
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	2	6
PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY	0	8
PAEDIATRICS	90	530
RHEUMATOLOGY	3	2
THORACIC MEDICINE	8	11
THORACIC SURGERY	1	0
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	392	482
UROLOGY	25	24
Grand Total	1269	2378

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.