



Health and Social
Care Board

Dr Tony Stevens
Chief Executive
Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Bretten Hall
Antrim Area Hospital
Bush Road
Antrim
BT41 2RL

Directorate of Commissioning

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Our Ref: DS/LETTERS/TrustNorthern

Date: 14 July 2015

Dear Tony,

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. 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
Bride Harkin
Teresa Magirr

Appendix one

Table one: All inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds to Antrim Hospital showing ward of admission.

Source: HSCB information

Hospital on Admission	Ward on Admission	Admissions	* Total Beddays
ANTRIM HOSPITAL	A2 Paediatric Ward Ext 2363	174	474
	Antrim (C)Intensive Care	1	2
	Antrim A&E Dept.	36	58
	Antrim A4 Medical	1	1
	Antrim B3 Ward	1	1
	Antrim C1 Gynae	4	8
	Assessment Medical Unit 1	4	12
	C4 Elective Unit	39	89
	C5 Gen Surgery	1	1
	C6 Gen Surgery	3	3
	Day Surgery Unit	2	2
	Genm/Endo/Diab	1	0
	Observation Unit - Antrim	23	10
	Recovery Area Antrim	1	1
ANTRIM HOSPITAL Total		291	662

Table two: All inpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in Causeway Hospital showing ward of admission.

Source: HSCB information

Hospital on Admission	Ward on Admission	Admissions	Total Beddays
CAUSEWAY HOSPITAL	Cau Children'S Ward	95	104
	Cau Elective Surgical Unit	1	2
	Cau Gynaecology Ward	1	5
	Cau Maternity Department	3	2
	Cau Medical Assess & Adm Unit	1	1
	Cau Surgical Ward 2	2	4
	Causeway A&E Dept.	3	10
	Coronary Care/Med Monitoring	1	2
CAUSEWAY HOSPITAL Total		107	130

Table Three: All outpatient activity relating to 14 and 15 year olds in NHSCT during 2014/15.

Source: HSCB information.

Specialty	New Attendances	Review Attendances
ANAESTHETICS	48	57
CARDIOLOGY	18	29
DERMATOLOGY	48	33
ENDOCRINOLOGY	2	0
ENT	123	163
GASTROENTEROLOGY	7	4
GENERAL MEDICINE	7	6
GENERAL PRACTICE (NON-MATERNITY)	19	0
GENERAL SURGERY	55	45
GERIATRIC MEDICINE	1	1
HAEMATOLOGY (CLINICAL)	5	1
NEPHROLOGY	2	10
NEUROLOGY	14	6
OBS AND GYN (GYNAECOLOGY)	27	29
OPHTHALMOLOGY	11	25
ORAL SURGERY	7	5
ORTHODONTICS	37	556
PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY	0	5
PAEDIATRICS	131	831
RHEUMATOLOGY	12	7
THORACIC MEDICINE	0	1
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	298	200
UROLOGY	3	7
Grand Total	875	2021

