



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

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/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,



Dean Sullivan
Director of Commissioning

CC: Carolyn Harper
Mary Hinds
Bride Harkin
Teresa Magirr