

1 Mill Close
Aylsham
Norfolk
NR11 6LZ

Tel: 01263 738100

E-mail: mark.taylor25@nhs.net

Private & Confidential

Terry Skyrme
Approved Mental Health Professional Service
Room 123
Harnser House
Hellesdon Hospital
Norwich
NR6 5BE

07.03.2014

Dear Terry

Thank you for your letter dated 17th February addressed to the North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group, which was received in my office on 28th February.

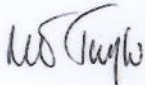
As you will recall from attending our recent Governing Body meeting on 21 January, the CCG are aware of pressures on local mental health beds and the issue of a number of patients being admitted to units far from Norfolk. Though, as I am sure you are aware, this is not a problem unique to Norfolk, as commissioners we do not believe this to be in any way an acceptable state of affairs and have committed to resolving the issue as quickly as possible.

We have made very clear to N&SFT that we will not support any further closure of acute adult beds, including the hostels in Norwich, until and unless we are satisfied that all of the patients currently being treated beyond Norfolk are returned and that we are satisfied that this will not reoccur. N&SFT have agreed with this position.

Given the issue you raise concerning the application of the Mental Health Act and the legal responsibilities of CCGs I have also shared your letter with Harold Bodmer, Director of Community Services. To that end Harold and I would be pleased to meet with you in order to ensure that we can ensure that we have addressed the issues highlighted in your letter. I will ask my colleague, Louise Hunt, to contact you in order to arrange this.

Thank you for raising this issue with the CCG and we look forward to bringing about improvements as quickly as possible

Yours sincerely



Mark Taylor
Chief Officer, NHS North Norfolk CCG

cc. Harold Bodmer, Director of Community Services, Norfolk County Council
Jackie Schneider, Head of Patient Safety and Clinical Quality, NHS North Norfolk CCG
Dr. Anoop Dhesi, Chair, NHS North Norfolk CCG
Dr. Penny Ayling, GP Executive Team Member, North Norfolk CCG

Working together for excellent healthcare in North Norfolk and Rural Broadland