

**To: Dr Ethie Kong, Clinical Lead, Brent CCG
Dr Tim Spicer, Clinical Lead, Hammersmith & Fulham CCG**

4th September 2014

Dear Ethie and Tim,

Further to Anne Rainsberry's letter dated 29 August, and your subsequent submission of additional evidence, I am writing to let you know the outcome of the further assurance that NHS England and TDA sought.

1. Amber ratings for sub criteria that would turn green subject to additional evidence

We have reviewed the further evidence and are now assured on these sub criteria with the exception of:

- Approved control of infection policies for Hammersmith and St Mary's Hospitals
- Surge plan for Care UK, CMH
- Those sub criteria that require approval of a committee or delegated officers prior to closure.

2. Priority areas for further assurance considered at the Delivery Group Meeting held on 26th September

I. UCC Hammersmith Hospital – response to the Independent Report

Thank you for the comprehensive response from Daniel Elkeles, Tim Ladbrooke and Ruth Brown to Dr Eccles eight recommendations. I note that you have accepted all recommendations with slight modification to the specification to the resuscitation trolley in the SMAC. This modification is supported by our Area Medical Director. On that basis we are assured on your response to the Independent Report.

II. Brent and Harrow system resilience plan

Thank you for the response from Rob Larkman and David McVittie to points of clarification we sought on the SRP. We note that

- The revised SRP submitted on 22 August and the schemes identified for funding from the central funding are supported both by Brent and Harrow CCGs and NWLHT.
- The funded schemes identified in the SRP have been discussed and agreed with SRG members as having the greatest impact on A&E performance.
- NWLHT NHS Trust is supportive of the community capacity which has been funded with the SRG money and does not see that funding the Trust schemes operationally over these would see increased benefit, all capacity must remain and funding resolved.

We are assured on the schemes funded by the System Resilience Funding.

III. North West London Hospitals Trust A and E improvement trajectory

We have reviewed the trajectory submitted as part of the SRP and note that:

- The trajectory for type 1 and all types on the Northwick Park site for Q3 and Q4 2014/15 is improved over Q3 and Q4 2012/13 and 2013/14 and that you expect this improvement to be sustainable over winter 14/15 and beyond. This improvement is supported by the opening of 22 additional acute beds from 10 September and the SAHF clinical case for change by consolidating the current A&E services at CMH and NPH on the NPH site.
- TDA and NHSE expect the merged Trust to achieve the 95% standard for all types from 1st April 2015.
- The standard of 95% for all types on NPH site cannot be achieved sustainably until an additional 66 acute beds come on stream in November 2015 subject to TDA approval of the business case. We expect to have further discussions with you on the optimisation of performance over the 2014/15 winter period and how the 95% standard can be delivered in the near future.

IV. NWL Critical Care Network – response to the recommendations

Thank you for the joint response from David McVittie and Rob Larkman to the recommendations of the Critical Care Network in relation to ITU level 2 and 3 beds at CMH. We note that NWLHT is developing an action plan in response to the report and items 2-7 will be implemented before 10th September

All the Network recommendations are supported by the Trust, commissioner (Brent CCG) and SaHF Programme Board. Ongoing monitoring will take place by the SAHF programme in relation to provision of additional capacity at NPH and at the contractual NWLHT/Brent CCG Clinical Quality Group meetings in respect of all other recommendations. We are therefore assured on the sub-criteria relating to critical care at CMH.

We propose to monitor progress on the action plan at the NHSE CCG assurance meetings at regular intervals.

In light of assurance on all the above areas, I can confirm that NHSE is assured with the process that Brent and Hammersmith and Fulham CCGs have implemented to prepare for this transition and can therefore proceed to decommission A and E services at CMH and Hammersmith Hospital and recommission this activity at other A and E departments in line with planning assumptions. We will forward the fully assured report to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Weldon".

Simon Weldon
Director of Operations and Delivery
NHS England, London

CC: Rob Larkman, Chief Officer, BHH CCGs Federation
Daniel Elkeles, Chief Officer, CWEE CCGs Federation
Jo Ohlson, Head of Assurance, NHS England, London