



Northern, Eastern and Western Devon  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Alison Diamond  
Chief Executive  
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust  
North Devon District Hospital  
Raleigh Park  
Barnstaple  
EX31 4JB

30th September 2015

Dear Alison

As you are aware NEW Devon CCG made a decision in May 2015 to undertake a consultation on the number of community beds in the Northern locality. It was proposed, as part of this decision that a joint consultation process was conducted to determine the location of these beds. This was dependent on the agreed process being followed using a Gateway approach for assurance and involving public stakeholders.

We are aware this process was not considered fast enough for NDHT, due to the Trust's separate agenda on cost efficiency for this year. Due to the different priorities of the CCG and NDHT we confirmed we would postpone the consultation relating to the long term strategic intent for community beds and we would not be part of the consultation for the cost efficiencies required for NDHT's 2015/16 cost improvement programme.

As a result the CCG is able to support the need for NDHT to consult on the consultation on cost efficiencies but are not able to be part of the consultation. We have previously made our views known to the Trust regarding what the CCG will consider acceptable and be prepared to support, and have made these views known to you.

Whilst the CCG has formally acknowledged its support to NDHT to consult on 2015/16 cost efficiencies and has clearly indicated to NDHT the degrees of flexibility which could be considered to support the delivery of cost efficiencies in year we are concerned at the singular emphasis on finances, the timing of the consultation, together with the possible impact on system resilience and patient safety.

As discussed previously, and to be clear, the CCG will not support proposals for bed or unit closures but only a flex range for the existing community beds. This CCG view is consistent across both the Northern and Eastern Locality.

Chair: Dr Tim Burke  
Chief Officer: Rebecca Harriott

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There are a number of fundamental differences between the CCG and the Trust position. The CCG does not agree with the continued use of the statement that the proposals are completely in line with the strategic intent of the CCG as we have not yet consulted.

Yours sincerely



**Martin Sheldon**  
**Turnaround Director**  
**Northern, Eastern & Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group**

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