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23rd October 2012

Leila Williams
Director of Service Transformation
NHS Greater Manchester
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Dear Leila

A New Health for Trafford: Response to Consultation on Plans to Redesign Hospital Services

Thank you for sending the consultation plans to redesign hospital services in Trafford. The proposals have been carefully considered by the Executive Management Team at Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, along with the local clinical and managerial staff providing mental health services in Trafford. GMW is committed to providing high quality mental health services to the residents of Trafford and will continue to support the health and social services providers to provide integrated care. Whilst we note on page 13 of the consultation that the mental health services run by GMW on the Trafford General site do not form part of the consultation there are three key points to GMW's response to the consultation.

1. We fully accept that Trafford Acute Hospital services need to change to make sure services are high quality, efficient and affordable. In particular, we acknowledge the rationale to change the A&E services based in Trafford.
2. In relation to the long term vision for an Integrated Care System in Trafford we share the desire to ensure seamless integrated services from the perspective of the patient. We are aware that NHS Trafford over the last 2-3 years has been working on this vision and have engaged in a number of forums, but feel this work has lost some focus as to what it actually means on the ground. Page 6 of the consultation document says this "is not about merging health and social care services so they sit under one roof" and GMW supports this position. We would like to see less focus on organisational structures and who runs what parts of the services and instead focus more on patient pathways. In particular, we have worked closely with health and social care service providers to align our community services with the local area teams and have ensured a seamless pathway from A&E to the mental health in-patient wards.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

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3. An important omission in the consultation document relates to the purpose built S136 Suite at Trafford A&E. Page 26 appraises the options in relation to the different clinical models, but makes no reference to what would happen to patients who require S136 outside the proposed opening hours of the urgent care centre. There have been some early stakeholder discussions some months back in relation to the S136 which appear to have ceased. GMW would like to be involved in the discussions regarding new models to address this issue and would want to ensure any changes have no additional costs to the Trust.

We hope the above comments are helpful and look forward to working with Central Manchester NHS FT and the new provider/s of community services once the recent tendering exercise is completed. The Trafford services provided by GMW are of utmost importance to the Trust and we look forward to working together to help improve the health of residents in Trafford.

Yours sincerely



Bev Humphrey
Chief Executive

cc Gill Green, Director of Operations and Nursing
Neil Thwaite, Director of Service & Business Development

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