

Cllr David Winskill  
Haringey Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
London Borough of Haringey

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Dear David

**Follow up to visit to St Ann's**

I am writing to follow up on the OSC's informal visit to St Ann's on 6 May. We found it a very helpful opportunity to update you, Cllr Browne, Yvonne Denny and Rob Mack on some of the key issues going on at the Trust at the moment, including our plans for the future of St Ann's and our current public consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust. I hope you all found the tour around some of our facilities and the discussions with some of our key clinicians informative in giving you a better understanding of our services. I also hope it gave you an overview of some of the ways we are improving our services and some of the challenges we face in continuing to help support and care for local people.

You raised two important points and asked that I get back to you with some further information. Yvonne asked about our services for local children and young people, particularly in the key area of helping to identify potential mental health problems early. Our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Haringey provide a range of interventions for children and young people with complex mental health problems. The service is currently configured into three teams:

- Generic CAMHS Team – This is a multi- disciplinary team working with children and adolescents across the age range. We know that the complexity of cases in Haringey is higher than the national average and referral rates to the generic team have increased by approximately 20% over the last year. This Team has an important role in managing the single point of entry for all CAMHS providers in the borough.
- Adolescent Outreach Team - This is a specialist service providing rapid response and intensive support for adolescents with high risk presentations/mental states. Complexity ratings in Haringey are again considerably higher than the national average.
- CAMHS Learning Difficulties Team – This is another specialist service for children and young people with complex co-morbid mental health problems and learning difficulties.

In addition, we receive a small amount of funding from the Council to part fund the Primary Mental Health Team, which provides less intensive children and young people's services in GP practises, other primary care locations and, importantly, in schools. As you may know, the funding from the Council is currently under review due to the removal of the previous ring fencing from the grant source.

The Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme in Haringey has been running for two years. This provides consultation, training and advice for targeted school staff, as well as clinical work. As part of this, we have been working with a number of local schools, particularly secondary schools to help educate children and young people about mental health issues and looking after their own and their family's mental health and wellbeing. The current funding for this programme expires this year, with no clear picture of any future funding, due to the current central Government funding and the grant source no longer being available after this year.

One of the most critical aspects of our work with children and young people is around Safeguarding and ensuring full integration of our internal Safeguarding arrangements with those of other agencies and partners across Haringey. The Trust is actively engaged in the key local multi-agency children's forums such as:

Safeguarding Resources Panel  
Common Assessment Framework Panel  
Local Safeguarding Children's Board  
Complex Care Panel  
Youth Offending Service Management Board

The other issue you raised was about the occasional use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for patients. We recognise this is far from ideal, but I can assure you again that this is only used as a last resort and only when clinically appropriate. We do currently arrange over night accommodation for a small number of patients if there is not a suitable bed on an inpatient ward available. However, this is always related to the ongoing issues of delayed transfers of care. Unfortunately, there are patients sometimes on our wards who no longer need to remain there for clinical reasons but cannot be immediately transferred back home, or more commonly, to supported accommodation. As you know, this is an ongoing issue and we work very closely with our colleagues in Adult Services in the Council to manage these issues as effectively as possible.

During 2010, we arranged Bed and Breakfast accommodation for approximately 40 nights. We do not have exact records of how many patients this involved, although it is definitely less than 40, as some patients stay in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for a number of nights, returning to their ward at St Ann's during the day. This figure of 40 nights compares to a total of 3,851 bed days in 2010/11 where patients had to remain on one of our wards in Haringey when they were clinically ready to transfer, because no suitable alternative accommodation was available at the time. The costs of this are significant, both in terms of reduced quality of care for our patients and also financially for the Trust. Our estimate of the costs of delayed transfers of care in 2010/11 in Haringey is approximately £107,000, which would fund several additional nursing staff posts. Anything that you and your colleagues can do to help facilitate solutions to this issue would be very helpful.

We talked about our new Recovery Houses on 6 May and we are progressing well with these, so that there will be one new Recovery House open in each of the boroughs we work in this year. In Haringey, we are examining the option of using the current Alexander Road Centre, which is due to be closed by the Council, but we would like to lease to provide a new service for local people. The Recovery Houses will mean that some patients currently admitted to an inpatient ward will not need to be and other patients who are admitted to an inpatient ward but then have to remain there unnecessarily, will be helped into more suitable accommodation more quickly.

The Recovery Houses will essentially be 'step up, step down' services, to help improve the care we offer. We hope that they will also help us to manage our inpatient services more effectively and reduce the need to accommodate patients occasionally in Bed and Breakfasts.

I hope that my letter has been helpful in giving you more information on these issues and reassuring you on the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Please let me know if you would like anything further on these issues before we see you again.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Kane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Maria Kane  
Chief Executive

CC: Cllr Gideon Bull – Chair, Haringey OSC  
Rob Mack – Senior Scrutiny Policy Officer, LBH