



Skin Care Campaign

Cllr Mark Dobson
Chairman
Scrutiny Board (Health)
Leeds City Council

21st October 2010

Dear Councillor Dobson

Re: DERMATOLOGY

I am writing following a recent hospital trust and patient group meeting about the move of adult dermatology services from Leeds General Infirmary to Chapel Allerton Hospital.

I was dismayed at the lack of planning and strategic decision making the trust had invested in the move of the ward; especially, considering the outcomes from previous scrutiny committee meetings and the year in which the hospital trust has had to plan for this significant change in service delivery. It was alarming to hear that despite the delays and previous reassurances the trust were still planning to

- move the in-patient facilities into a ward that needed significant building work to be done to provide a safe clinical environment
- before the medical team had planned for the safe staffing of the ward.

Despite requests to the trust's representative, Phillip Norman, for copies of any strategic plans or clinical risk assessments for this move I have not received anything that reassures me any strategic planning has taken place hence the late notification of the move to the patients that will be affected.

It was noteworthy that the patient's at the meeting compromised a great deal on what they ideally wanted and what they will get. They were outstandingly cooperative in supporting the trust to make this move. I hope that the trust can now be equally as supportive to patients and make the move as quick and safe as possible and complete the necessary building/environment changes to the ward with due alacrity.

In addition, I am also concerned that the trust has not made any plans for paediatric dermatology and would urge your committee to request a detailed strategy for how children with skin conditions will have their healthcare needs met by the trust - which I would hope will include a clear outline on how they will consult with patients and carers to ensure they are involved in any decision making.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Langford
Chief Executive.

Skin Care Campaign
St. James House
13 Kensington Square
London W8 5HD