



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

12th April 2011

Dear Councillor Dobson

Re: TREATMENT, CARE and SUPPORT of PATIENTS with SKIN DISEASES in LEEDS

I am writing following a recent hospital trust and patient group meeting about the continued problems experienced by patients following the move of adult in-patient dermatology services from Leeds General Infirmary to Chapel Allerton Hospital and the growing concern of patients about the proposed move of out-patient services.

As expressed previously 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. At a recent meeting of the Leeds Dermatology Patient Panel it was alarming to hear that despite the delays and previous reassurances from the trust patients were experiencing significant problems with the in-patient service, inc:

- infection control and consequent patient safety issues – with very poor management of potentially infectious patients and the facilities needed to contain any infection from infecting other patients
- incomplete building works including inadequate lighting and incomplete essential fixtures and fittings
- the inadequate level of experience and knowledge of the staff not from a dermatology background to provide the specialist treatment, care and support needed.

In my opinion if the move had have been properly planned, with appropriate strategic plans and clinical risk assessments, all of these could have been avoided and patients would not have been put at risk.

Once again it was noteworthy that the patient's at the meeting compromised a great deal on what they ideally wanted and what they will get. Unfortunately, however, confidence in the trust is very low and consequently patients are feeling that any move of out-patient services does not bode well – this may, however, be improved if the trust can produce strategic plans and clinical risk assessments that can be implemented to ensure a much smoother and safer transfer of out-patient services from the infirmary to Chapel Allerton Hospital.

I am sorry I cannot attend the OSC meeting where you will discuss this but please do not hesitate in contacting me if I can be of any further support.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Langford
Chief Executive.

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