



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Emma Hardy MP

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Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Wednesday 18th April 2018

Dear Philip

Further to the Trust's successful Department of Health loan application to progress their local Tier 4 CAMHS inpatient unit, they are still unable to draw down the necessary capital.

I can confirm that the Trust has in place a detailed design for the Unit with full planning approval and they have appointed their contractor partner. Unfortunately the delays in accessing the capital mean that they are unable to instruct the works to begin and this is creating serious quality and safety risks.

The national shortage of Tier 4 beds and the inequitable distribution across the country has been acknowledged by NHS England for a number of years. The national policy for the development of CAMHS services, Future In Mind (2015) gave an explicit requirement for inpatient care to be, "on a ward with people your own age and near to home". This is currently not the case for the Humberside area with young people being admitted to paediatric wards and adult mental health wards, as well as experiencing significant delays in A/E departments and Section 136 suites.

On average young people are placed in units over 45 miles from home with families having to make long and difficult journeys to visit. Inevitably this detaches the young person from their natural support networks and creates clinical discontinuity in their existing community care plan. This also results in extended lengths of stay as discharge arrangements are difficult to co-ordinate, adding further costs to the system.



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There are often delays of days and in some cases weeks where high risk young people are waiting to access a Tier 4 bed. Demand for community CAMHS continues to rise and the complexity of presentations increases. Delays in timely access to a Tier 4 bed creates additional pressure on these teams and further reduces the capacity to manage waiting lists.

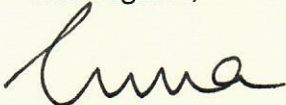
The lack of an appropriate local facility which causes significant delays in accessing a bed for their most vulnerable young people, added to the well documented additional risk of admitting young people out of area, leaves local community CAMHS services and partner organisations carrying an unsustainable burden. The current practice of using the facilities described above as "holding measures" are either not age appropriate and/or do not have staff skilled in the management of clinical risk for young people. There are a number of high profile cases that have demonstrated the inadequacy of these arrangements, with the need to use adult facilities and or paediatric beds to hold young people who cannot be safely managed in the community.

The proposed new service will consist of 9 general adolescent beds co located with 2 intensive care beds to provide for young people aged 13-18 living with severe or complex mental disorders including depression, psychoses, eating disorders and severe anxiety. The unit will provide for young people in an acute state of distress as well as rapid and local access to the community teams. The advantage of a local facility will be the ability to work collaboratively with the inpatient team to ensure continuity of care, a reduced length of stay in the least restrictive environment. The importance of getting such a unit open and operational as quickly as possible cannot be under estimated.

The key organisations who will benefit from this development are the four Clinical Commissioning Groups (Hull, East Riding, North Lincs and North East Lincs) and their respective Local Authorities who all hold joint responsibility for their Local Transformation Plans as part of the Future in Mind requirements. All four have prioritised improved access to Tier 4 beds and the partnerships will also benefit under their Transforming Care Partnerships with the responsibility to improve services for young people with autism and learning disabilities. Most importantly though, it is young people and their families who will benefit the most, through access to an in-patient unit which can meet their need for safety.

I would appreciate you looking into this issue with funding and proving me with a response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Hardy', written in a cursive style.

Emma Hardy MP