

Countess of Chester Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust

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Our ref: AK/mc

21st December 2016

BY EMAIL

Andrew Bibby
Assistant Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning (North)
NHS England
Bevan House
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Liverpool L13 1HN

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter dated 16th December 2016 in respect of you requesting a further update regarding the Neonatal review undertaken by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. You will be aware that I sent an update to Sue McGorry via email on the 14th November 2016 explaining that the draft report had been received and was being checked by us for factual accuracy, this was sent back accordingly and we have only just received the final approved document from the Royal College.

One of the recommendations of the report was that a further independent case review was required of relevant cases. This is being undertaken by a Neonatologist from London and they require a secondary pathology review on a small number of cases before their final report is completed. As a consequence, we currently do not have a final report of this part of the review and therefore are not comfortable in sharing the Royal College report until we have the details of the case review.

In the meantime, we are developing our internal and external communication plan in the first instance, which you will be part of, and then subsequently an action plan to address the recommendations of the report. This will be further progressed in the New Year.

Obviously the safety of our unit is paramount and on the day the review team left the Trust, they assured us that there were no immediate actions or concerns. Whilst the relevant reports are being formulated there has been on-going monitoring and support, particularly in respect of reviewing acuity and dependency on the unit with no significant concerns identified.



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Lorraine Burnett, Director of Operations and Ian Harvey, Medical Director have been in close communication with the Neonatal Network who have provided on-going support to the Trust during this time. As far as I am aware, there has been no impact across the network of us downgrading the unit. The network continue to be extremely supportive of the actions we are taking. We have agreed with them that future plans and recommendations will be consistent with the Cheshire & Merseyside Vanguard work and the clinically agreed model of care that is under development. As well as the clinical focus, our Chief Finance Officer, Debbie 'O Neill has continued to monitor the financial impact which we have been managing with no support.

In light of the above, the relevant report will be shared with you as part of our communication plan and until that time, we will not be able to comment on the timescales or plan going forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

PD

Alison Kelly
Director of Nursing & Quality

cc: Tony Chambers, Chief Executive, CoCH
Lorraine Burnett, Director of Operations, CoCH
Ian Harvey, Medical Director, CoCH



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