

My life was turned upside down and subsequently put on hold, when I was unexpectedly informed, in July 2016, that I was being redeployed from the Unit following a period of annual leave. I have not entered the Unit since. There has been a huge element of dishonesty throughout this process and I want to ensure that you all hear my perspective and are aware of the impact your actions have had on me.

I appreciate that we all have a right to raise concerns, and that the protection of our vulnerable patient group, is, of course, of paramount importance. However, I find it extremely unprofessional and hurtful to have been made aware of such unsubstantiated insensitive comments, as listed below, often via 'word of mouth'. Some of these were voiced in public areas / meetings. It was only through the submission of my grievance that all of these 'comments' were confirmed.

It was suggested by some of the Paediatric Consultants that the link (my presence on the unit and the increased mortality rates) "was due to a knowingly deliberate action by LL".

It has been noted that "Consultants were not prepared to have me on the unit" and that "as a team you continued to apply pressure to have me removed"..... "If I were not removed, the police would be called"..... "Consultants were uncomfortable that I would be on the unit" and wanted me "suspended".

Members of your team have been heard to publicly make comments such as 'Angel of death', 'murderer on the unit', 'cold and calculated'. A member of the Consultant team, when asked how they would feel if I were to kill myself or if something were to happen to my elderly parents as a result, has been documented as replying "I do not care". No individual and certainly no parent should have to hear something as distressing as this.

As concluded by my grievance report which states "It is clearly evident from the witness statements that your movement from the unit was orchestrated by consultants with no hard evidence to support this action."

I was also disappointed to have discovered within my grievance that analysis tables relating to the mortality rates had columns 'amended' by your team with information relating to the involvement of medical staff being 'removed.'

Due to my professionalism/ dedication / commitment / work ethic I have exceeded expectations in my new role and remained in work, despite time off being suggested by numerous people on many

occasions. The reason for remaining in work being that I am completely innocent of all verbal allegations made against me which has been confirmed within my grievance report.

In some ways, time off may have been easier than having to constantly walk past the Women and Children's building knowing that I could not enter for fear of seeing any of you or bumping into colleagues and having to lie. The isolation from friends and colleagues since July has been huge and I am yet to see if it has any lasting impact on my team relationships

The unit is a small, close knit team with some members also being friends. Having to limit contact with them and be under the pretence of a voluntary secondment has resulted in my support network being extremely restricted.

The secrecy of this situation has been, in my opinion, to protect you more than it was to benefit me - I have never had anything to hide. I therefore wish to be as open and honest as possible with my colleagues pending my return and I will be releasing a statement. I feel they have the right to know the truth behind my secondment and restricted contact, which is very out of character for me. I hope this will also enable relationships to be rebuilt and for me to be supported in my return to the team.

After working with you all in a professional and supportive manner during difficult and challenging times I have been hurt and disappointed that those of you who did not openly raise concerns felt unable to be more supportive of me in this situation.

The detrimental effect this has had on me, my family, and potentially my future is immense. Many months of worry, distress, secrecy and uncertainty has had a significant impact on my physical health, general wellbeing and self-confidence. I am not the person I was before this began. It is only now that there is some light at the end of the tunnel that I feel as though I can start to try to become the person I was before.

A lot of people would leave / move on/ have a fresh start and I know that is the feeling which has been conveyed to me by some of you "the longer she is away from the unit, the more likely she will be to leave", however, I am very passionate about and dedicated to Chester -it is where I undertook my nurse training and the unit helped me to grow from a student to a newly qualified nurse and beyond. Although this has been very traumatic, my strong desire to remain in Chester and within CoCH remains, and I am hopeful that we can find a professional way forward to enable my return to where I feel I belong.