

Our Ref: AB RA AKELLY 2016-12-16

16 December 2016

Bevan House
Wavertree Technology Park
65 Stephenson Way
Liverpool
L13 1HN

BY EMAIL

Email : andrewbibby@ **I&S**
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Alison Kelly
Director of Nursing
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust

Dear Alison

I am writing further to our earlier conversations around the issues faced by the Trust over the Summer relating to Neonatal Critical Care, and the subsequent temporary down grading of the Countess of Chester Neonatal unit to a Special Care Service in July 2016 and internal and Royal College investigations into the higher than expected levels of mortality. During our conversations, you offered to keep us updated on the situation and as such I am writing to request the following:

- An update regarding progress towards the reinstatement of the neonatal cots
- A copy of internal and external reports relating to the neonatal unit
- Immediate risks or concerns
- Formal action plan
- Communications plan

I am seeking your assurance that the Trust are progressing with the investigations and resulting outcomes are being actioned. I would like to understand timescales for the planned reinstatement of the Trust's neonatal cots. As you will be aware there are pressures across the Neonatal Network in terms of capacity and in order to assist with planning this information is important.

I would also like to take this opportunity to advise you that Specialised Commissioners have taken the decision to place the neonatal unit on Enhanced Quality Surveillance until such time as we receive the required assurances that the unit can safely re open to accept admissions.

I would be grateful if you could send the requested information to my secretary,
r.ashtonhurst@ **I&S** by 21st December 2016.

Yours sincerely

PD

Andrew Bibby
Assistant Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning (North)

Copy:

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High quality care for all, now and for future generations