

**DRAFT**

Ref: MH/mfh

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Dear John and Heather

Re: **RSH Upper Brambles Ward**

Thank you for the confirmation of your support for a winter pressures ward based on upper brambles ward at the RSH. I will try to answer each of your points.

We agree this is a short term measure to create some system resilience during the winter period and agree there should be a review at month 3, planned for January 2013.

You have asked us to implement all of the ECIST report recommendations. Having reviewed the ECIST report the Trust does not fully agree with the statement ... 'this should not be to achieved by opening additional beds but by addressing flow'. The bed capacity has to be adequate to meet overall demand and needs to be flexible enough to meet peaks in demand (eg Flu, norovirus) or peaks in capacity (eg social services failure), but we do agree wholeheartedly that improved flow across the whole system would be of great benefit. We look forward to developing and implementing the whole system plan and this should give us all the breathing space we need before these actions are in place.

As to the provisos the trust has reviewed the provisos and is able to agree to all of these but would like to make the following comments:

**Proviso 3 'fully implement the ECIST recommendations'**. We are currently developing plans to implement a number of the recommendations and will work with ECIST to do this. However some of their recommendations are whole system and not within our gift to do and some are contradictory. For example we couldn't implement see and treat for minors and create a GP out of hours service. However we agree all of the main recommendations and we are happy to share our actions and plans and I would suggest report monthly on progress to the unscheduled care board. I hope this is acceptable.

**Proviso 4, 'GP pilot'**. We think this is an excellent approach and we need to work in an incremental way to ensure that the GPs time is used in the most effective way. I would be grateful for a high level discussion on this.

As to bed capacity, further to the outputs of the whole systems ECIST review we will continue to work with Solent and Southern to maximise the use of all the currently funded facilities. If this is not picked up directly though the whole systems ECIST review we have already agreed with both Community providers to review beds as part of the winter planning process.

The Trust recognises that this is part of the agreed ED action plan and will give much greater confidence of delivery of the performance targets.

We also recognise this is not the CCGs long term strategy for elderly care and we look forward to working with you on this.

Lastly let me say again that we are grateful for your support for this project and I am sure that we can make this a success.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hackett  
**Chief Executive**

cc Steve Townsend, Chair, NHS Southampton City CCG  
Sarah Schofield, Chair, NHS West Hampshire CCG  
Heather Hauschild, Chief Officer (Designate), NHS West Hampshire CCG  
Les Judd, Interim Director of System Delivery, NHS Southampton City CCG  
Adrian Higgins, Clinical Director for Unscheduled Care, NHS West Hampshire CCG  
Ayo Adesina, Associate Director for Quality and Patient Experience, SHIP PCTs Cluster  
Mike Fulford, Chief Finance Officer, NHS Southampton & West Hampshire CCGs  
Ros Tolcher, Chief Executive, Solent NHS Trust