

Mrs Nikki Cox  
Tier 4 CAMHS Manager  
Parkview Clinic  
60 Queensbridge Road  
Moseley  
Birmingham B13 8QU

**KATHERINE KERSWELL**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

PO Box 18 Council House  
Solihull West Midlands B91 9QS  
Tel: 0121-704 6054 Fax: 0121-704 6008  
Minicom: 0121-704 8058  
Email: [ahadley@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:ahadley@solihull.gov.uk)  
[www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Adam Hadley

Our Ref: AH/Consultation

Date: 14 February 2007

Dear Mrs Cox,

**Consultation Response from the Healthier Communities and Older People  
Scrutiny Board – Solihull MBC**

Further to your consultation entitled Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Tier 4 Inpatient CAMHS Reconfiguration I can confirm that it was considered by the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Board on 29 November, 2006 in line with the provisions contained within the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

As well as the questions contained within your consultation we also considered the following:

1. Whether, as the statutory body, we felt we had been properly consulted within the consultation process.
2. Whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation.
3. Whether the proposal for change is in the interests of the local health service.

The process undertaken to consider the consultation was that members of the Board received it at an early juncture so that they could consider which witnesses they wished to meet with in order to give a balanced response. An informal evidence gathering session was then held before the Board met formally to consider its response to you. The members of the Board present at the meeting were:-

Councillor Honor Cox (Chairman)  
Councillor Alan Nash (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Brian Burgess (substitute member), Barbara Harber, Dr Peter Lea and Mrs Kate Wild.  
Mrs Delia Zeuthen (co-opted member)

The following witnesses attended the Board's informal evidence gathering session:-

Tier 4 CAMHS, Nikki Cox and Christine McBeth  
Jane Wilton, Solihull MBC lead officer for CAMHS  
Dr Sandra Noronha, Solihull Care Trust (Northbrook Child & Family Unit)  
Rachel McArthur, Solihull Care Trust (Northbrook Child & Family Unit)  
Mr John Simpson, previous Tier 4 CAMHS user

To begin with members of the Board considered the questions outlined above on the consultation process and made the following comments:

- We felt that the consultation process has not been far reaching enough and has not gone into sufficient depth.
- Further to this, as an Overview and Scrutiny Board with responsibility for statutory health scrutiny we feel we should have been consulted prior to the consultation document being published, as is required under the Health and Social Care Act. 2001. As you'll be aware you originally wanted to make changes to provision through a targeted consultation without asking all Overview and Scrutiny Committees whether they thought the changes were "substantial variations". It was only when Birmingham City Council conveyed their dissatisfaction with the targeted consultation did you agree to undertake a full statutory consultation. We would like to remind you that when changes to services affect the West Midlands region it is necessary to consult all Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the region in order to assess whether the proposed changes constitutes a "substantial variation".
- That the Board had not received a full list of those people/organisations being consulted.

With regard to the proposals detailed in the consultation document members agreed with the following response:

- That further detailed work needed to be undertaken so that the issues surrounding commissioning and funding are addressed.
- That the use of agency staff be avoided and that more nurses should be employed in order to ensure the wards all remain open.
- That there is a need to keep both sites open so that young people can receive the extra care they require that is offered at the different sites (such as schooling and other medical care).
- That Tier 4 CAMHS was an area where it would be difficult to project the number of patients being treated on a year-by-year basis and that, therefore, there is a need for the Service's baseline figures to be needs led rather than financially led.
- That the number of young people with mental health related illnesses is increasing and that instead of making cut backs on the service there is a need to expand it.
- That, in light of this, there is a need to reconsider the whole future of CHAMS.

- That if the number of wards was reduced and more people had to be given out-of-Borough placements no savings would actually be made.
- That if out-of-Borough placements had to be used the young person being sent out of Borough would not necessarily receive the level of family support they would need; due to increased journey costs and time.
- That we felt that the initiatives were being financially driven rather than need and patient driven.
- That the options presented in the consultation do not take into account the needs of the whole family as well as the needs of the patient.

**In conclusion the members of the Board unanimously agreed that they could not support either of the options presented to them in the consultation document.**

The Board also asked that upon completion of the consultation you send a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of the whole consultation, how you responded to the views you received and what the final decision made by the Trust Board of Birmingham Children's Hospital was.

I would finally like to thank you for attending the Board and answering members questions during the evidence gathering session and ask that if you require any further information you contact the Board's Scrutiny Officer, Mr Adam Hadley, using his contact details in the header to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Honor M. Cox**  
**Chairman of the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Board**