



Sherwood Forest Hospitals **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Councillor Ged Clarke  
Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Standing Committee (OSC)  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

Dear Councillor Clarke

**Re: Newark Hospital**

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2011, I do appreciate the important role of Nottinghamshire County Council's OSC and I am grateful for the interest and support the Committee has given the Newark Review during the past year. I understand that our Chief Operating Officer has spoken with your Lead Officer today to answer his questions and clarify our current position.

I would seek to reassure you that we take our duties to consult very seriously and can assure you that the changes to the hours of admission are simply putting into operation the agreed and commissioned model of care for Newark, discussed previously at OSC meetings.

Please be reassured that we are continuing to admit selected patients to Newark Hospital. As you are aware from the consultation document, it was proposed that Newark Hospital would be used for the recovery and rehabilitation of patients after receiving specialist treatment elsewhere. Newark Hospital beds would also be used for local people, such as those patients with long term conditions.

GPs and hospital specialists have now fully agreed which patients will be treated in Newark, and which will need to go elsewhere, they have also agreed the detail of how the model will be put into operation. This ensures that Newark Hospital only takes cases it is fully equipped to deal with. The plan was to have all new services in place in April 2011 and the recent decision was to bring this forward by 25 days. This is earlier than originally planned, but the decision was taken on the grounds of clinical quality and patient safety.

The agreed model starts from Monday 7 March. Patients will continue to be admitted during the hours of 8am and 6pm with conditions within the clinical protocols agreed

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**Chairman** Tracy Doucét  
**Chief Executive** Carolyn White

between GPs and hospital specialists. The MIU and UCC will be open 24 hours, 7 days a week, which was agreed as part of the consultation process.

The decision to implement the model from 7 March was taken on 22 February 2011 by myself, after discussion with the executive team and with particular advice from the Executive Directors of Medicine and Nursing who advocated this change on the basis of maintaining the highest quality of care for our patients.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C White'.

**Carolyn White**  
**Chief Executive**

Cc Andrew Kenworthy, Chief Executive, NHS Nottinghamshire County  
Matthew Garrard, Senior Scrutiny Officer