



Sussex and East Surrey
Clinical Commissioning Groups



Bryan Turner
Chairman Health and Adult Social Care
Select Committee
West Sussex County Council

Sussex and East Surrey Clinical
Commissioning Groups
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
HOVE
BN3 4AH
Tel: 01273 238700
Email: adam.doyle5@nhs.net
www.brightonandhoveccg.nhs.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

c/o rob.castle@westsussex.gov.uk

27 February 2019

Dear Bryan,

Re Community Hospitals

Thank you for your letter dated the 25 January 2019, regarding the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock's statement, at the Conservative Party Conference last October that "the era of moving all activity into fewer, larger hospitals and blindly, invariably closing community hospitals is over".

You asked me to clarify the position following the response received by HASC from Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust (SCFT), which you found somewhat confusing.

I have now read the SCFT response that you kindly shared, and I am pleased to clarify that our view is as follows;

The Five Year Forward View and the NHS Long Term Plan both describe, as we have locally in West Sussex and across the Sussex and East Surrey STP, a strong desire to see services provided as locally as possible where it is clinically safe and appropriate to do so. These plans also describe significant investments in digital services, and in workforce, and in care pathways and diagnostic capacity, which are intended to improve patients' experience, and help reduce reliance on more traditional bed-based services, which are not always the best and safest form of care. In hospitals of any size, and particularly in very small hospitals, it can be very difficult to attract, recruit and retain the staffing that is required to make sure these bed-based services are safe.

We therefore believe that whilst the broad definition in the Secretary of State's statement would include all smaller hospitals, i.e. both District General Hospitals and Community (or Cottage) Hospitals, we share the underlying principle in SCFT's response that an ongoing cycle of reviewing services offered within these hospitals to ensure they are safe is appropriate.

If it would be helpful our Executive Director of Health, Well-Being and Care Strategy, Amanda Philpott, would be happy to meet with you and Siobhan Melia to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Adam Doyle
Chief Executive Officer
Sussex and East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups

c.c. Siobhan Melia - Chief Executive, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
Amanda Philpott - Executive Director of Health, Well-Being and Care Strategy