



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Garry Wall
Chair
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Committee
West Sussex County Council

Mike Jennings
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
Jevington Building
Brighton General Hospital
Elm Grove
Brighton
BN2 3EW

21 February 2025

Dear Garry,

Following our update letter dated 7 January 2025, I am writing to update you on the current position regarding the temporary closure of Zachary Merton Hospital.

As discussed when we last met, we are working with NHS Sussex to determine if there is any system capital available to fund the works required to bring Zachary Merton Hospital to the right standard for our patients and staff. The investment required is in the region of £8million.

Due to the delay in receiving the NHS Planning Guidance, the prioritisation process is still on going. We expect the outcome in the next couple of months and once received, will look to make a decision on the next steps for Zachary Merton with our Board.

As you may know, we took ownership of Zachary Merton Hospital 1 August 2023, and it was at this stage we became aware of the severity of the compounding estate issues. To provide assurance regarding other estate owned by the Trust, as an organisation we undertake surveys on all Trust owned premises, covering areas such as physical condition, functional suitability and quality of the internal environment. This allows us to ensure the estate can operate safely for our people and our patients and identifies any works required.

Patient care remains our priority, and whilst we await the outcome of the prioritisation process, we are continuing to work closely with our partners to ensure our patients can receive the care they need in the most appropriate place.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mike Jennings
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust



Excellent care at the heart of the community