

Councillor Mike Harrison
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Our Ref: SB/PG/hp

20 December 2012

From the Chief Executive: Stuart Bain

Dear Councillor Harrison

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December 2012 and I am pleased that you recognise the efforts we have made to keep you informed as we progress towards a new clinical strategy. We recognise that in times of change communities and their representatives can become nervous, which is why we are being completely open and transparent regarding the clinical strategy.

I welcome your comments regarding the consultation and can assure you that we intend to fully consult with the public and stakeholders, including yourselves, on any major changes that may be proposed as part of the clinical strategy.

We have used the engagement process to shape our proposals, which are currently being evaluated both internally and externally by the Royal College of Surgeons. In the New Year, once the evaluation regarding viability and sustainability has been completed, we will begin a three month comprehensive consultation process on any proposed changes. The process will be well publicised and provide multiple opportunities for the public to express their opinions.

The provision of health services is a complex area, with many inter-related factors, but we are working very hard to ensure that we clearly explain the options and their impacts.

Thank you again for your comments and I look forward to receiving your views regarding the clinical strategy once the consultation gets underway.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Bain
Chief Executive