

WT/TAH

15 March 2018

Tel: 0344 800 8020

Paul Watson and Dale Bywater
NHS England

Dear Paul and Dale

Mental Health Services in Norfolk and Suffolk

We are pleased that Antek Lejk has been appointed as Chief Executive at the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. We should now take the opportunity to rapidly progress the next steps required to integrate the commissioning and delivery of community services in Norfolk and Waveney.

In our view, mental health should be commissioned once across Norfolk, by a joint strategic commissioning committee, working through a single framework for quality and outcomes. Were that to be achieved, the County Council would be interested in pursuing closer integration of community-based social work, nursing and specialist support for adults and children.

It is also an opportunity for NSFT to organise its service delivery in line with the separate STP footprints of Norfolk/Waveney and Suffolk. The single county focus will strengthen the management of improvement and facilitate NSFT services achieving a good CQC rating. We will do all we can to support and contribute to that.

The Council's strategy for supporting people to live at home and for children to be safe in families, relies on building community services around primary care. At present services are too fractured across at least 6 community organisations (including children's services).

Given that approach there is a good case for bringing together community health services – through Norfolk Community Health and Care Services (NCHC), and the East Coast Community Health (ECCH) and NSFT. We feel that would streamline people's pathways through services, and maximise financial sustainability. It offers the best chance for collaboration with Norfolk's hospitals on reducing unplanned admissions and free their capacity to deliver acute services expectations and standards.

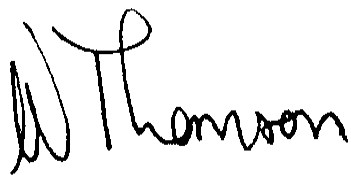
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The Council sees itself as a full participant in such a county-wide approach between community services and would offer its help with coordination, leadership and support. We would therefore suggest that this is explored in the next steps for development for NSFT and NCHC together, acknowledging that a top priority for mental health services is the CQC/NHSI improvement plans.

We would like a further conversation about these ideas, and suggest that a meeting with the relevant parties be a helpful next step.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'W'.

Dr Wendy Thomson CBE
Managing Director