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5th January 2022

Gordon Oliver
Principal Policy Officer
Democratic services
Strategic Support
West Berkshire District Council
Council Offices
Market Street
Newbury RG14 5LD
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Dear Gordon

Thank you for consulting Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust on the proposed West Berkshire Health Scrutiny protocol.

We find the protocol to be clear and framed by helpful partnership working principles, supporting the two Health and Wellbeing goals that we would all support.

The definition of a “substantial” development/change in NHS service provision is the key element of the protocol in terms of when the NHS (responsible commissioner) formally consults with the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC). Whilst noting that there is no legislative definition for a “substantial” change we recognise the examples used to guide in the protocol.

The success of this protocol will be driven by the opportunity for NHS partners to engage the HSC in forward planning discussion so that there is joint understanding of proposed services changes, well in advance of them happening.



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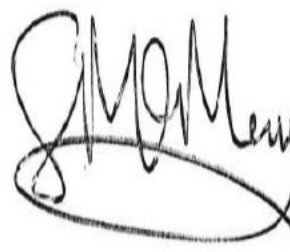


We would ask that the HSC continues to develop partnership connections to the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICS scrutiny processes, to ensure linkage and avoid duplication.

Yours sincerely,



Julian Emms
Chief Executive
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Steve McManus
Chief Executive
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust



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