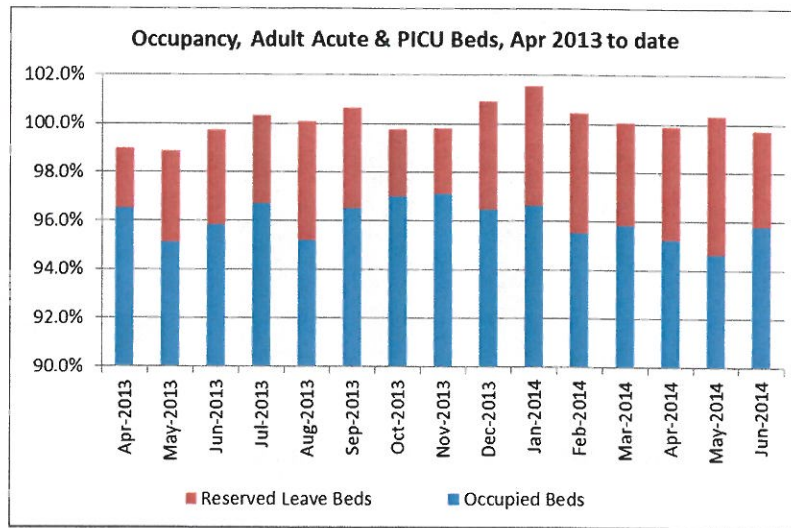
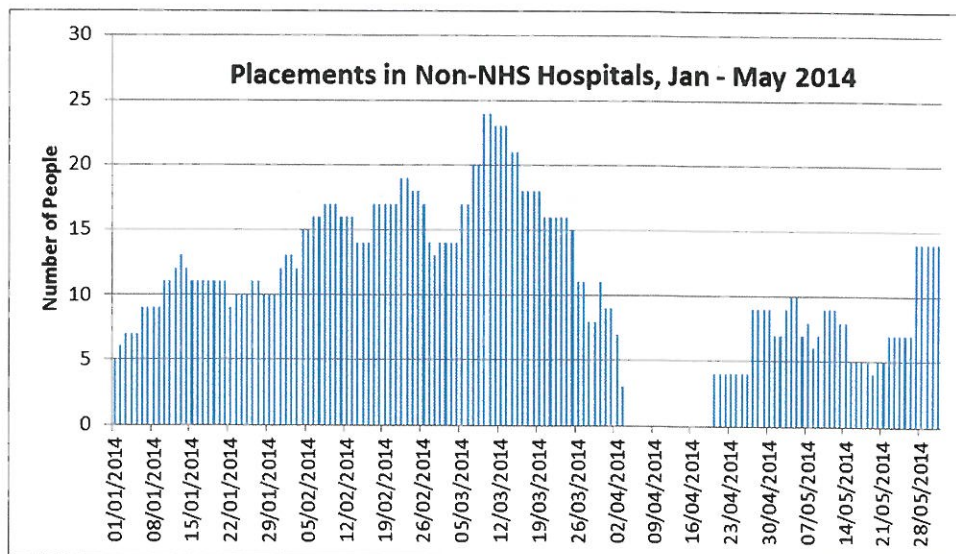


**Briefing Paper**  
**Acute Inpatient Bed Pressures**  
**Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust**

- 1) Bed occupancy is running close to 100% most of the time when reserved beds for people on short term leave are taken into account, and at 96-97% where this leave is excluded.



- We try to plan on the CQC recommended occupancy level of 85% capacity, which allows for flexibility to cope with most peaks in demand.
  - Beds being kept available for people on short-term leave is now challenged on a daily basis due to the pressure to accommodate others requiring admission. The CQC is increasingly criticising mental health Trusts that fill short term leave beds as patients on leave can return or be recalled in at short notice. The Leeds and York Partnership Trust for example no longer fill any leave beds as a quality measure.
- 2) Within the total occupancy figures above, Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit beds were operating at 98.9% occupancy during May 2014.
- 3) Out of area placements - Over the last six months, 99 people have been placed in private hospitals due to lack of locally available NHS beds.



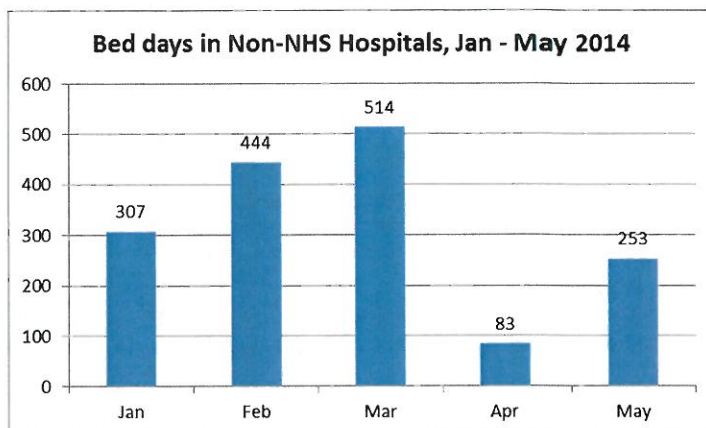
(Footnote - There was a period of 18 days above during April 2014 when the number of external placements had been reduced to zero).

These placements have lasted two weeks on average and up to ten weeks in extreme cases. The number of bed days in non NHS hospitals over the last 6 months is highlighted below. Service users have been placed at

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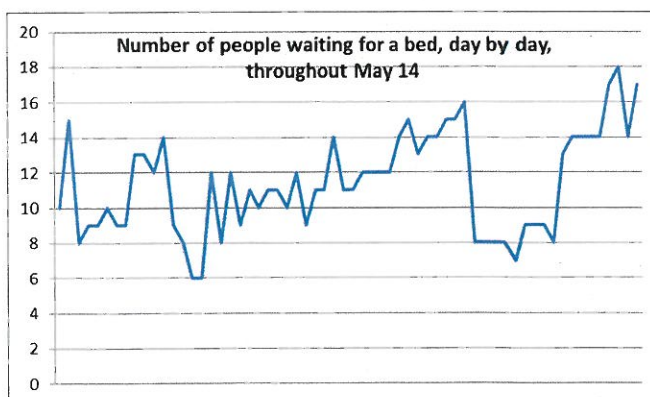
an average distance of 119 miles from Birmingham, representing over 20,000 miles in return patient transport journeys and significant difficulties for families and carers.



**Non-NHS Hospital Placements by Location, Jan – May 2014**

Hospital	Service Users	Bed days	Travel distance (miles)
Cygnets Harrogate	34	599	136
Cygnets Stevenage	16	317	94
Cygnets Kewstoke	8	189	104
Cygnets Harrow	8	134	109
Huntercombe, Roehampton	4	87	120
Cygnets Wyke	5	72	127
Cygnets Bierley	5	68	125
Cygnets Beckton	2	54	129
The Dene (Hassocks)	2	44	159
Priory Cheadle Royal	1	27	84
St Andrews Hospital	1	10	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1601</b>	
Averages		11 beds	119

- 4) Service users wait a long time for admission. On average during May 2014, we had 11 people waiting for admission at any one time (minimum – 6, maximum – 18). The maximum wait for one service user during this period was 17 days and the mean was 3.4 days.



- 5) Service users often have to move between acute wards during their stay, e.g. because they were not able to be admitted to their 'home' ward initially, or needed to return to a different ward after leave, etc. This has been the case for 29% of stays completed in the last six months.

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- 6) Internal bed outliers – Since April 2014, we have been running a combined working age and older adult bed management service, allowing a proportion of people referred by working age adult services to be admitted appropriately to older people's wards, who would previously have been admitted to an adult ward. This has affected 24 admissions over the last ten weeks in addition to out of area placements.
- 7) Benchmark - a recent internal audit report we commissioned on our inpatient pathways included a comparison with a similar area, a city Trust in London with a similar population but the London Trust has an additional 100 beds in comparison to Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

*John Short.*

John Short  
Chief Executive

