

Statement

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For Immediate Release

Response to letter sent to North Norfolk CCG

Kathy Chapman, Director of Operations (Norfolk), said:

"We share the concerns set out in the correspondence. It is essential that people with mental health problems in Norfolk have access to adequate crisis care and that includes having access to a bed locally when required. Our immediate priority is to provide a bed when needed, although for a number of people at the moment this is outside of Norfolk. On occasion we face a position where there are no beds available locally or nationally.

"In common with the national picture for mental health crisis care, Norfolk is facing high demand for acute mental health services and increasing difficulty identifying suitable placements for patients following treatment in hospital. NSFT is working with NN CCG, as the current lead commissioner for mental health services in the Norfolk, to resolve these capacity issues as part of the contract with NSFT in 2014/15.

"We are working with NN CCG to create temporary accommodation for patients delayed in our acute beds and freeing up the capacity of Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Teams, for example, by putting in place additional capacity to work alongside other agencies such as A&E and the police."

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