

Contact: Paul Greenhalgh
paul.greenhalgh@croydon.gov.uk

Date: 25 January 2016

Jay Stickland
Director of Adult Social Care
PO Box 64529
London
SE1P 5LX
22nd January 2016

Dear Jay

RE: South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) intention to establish a single Section 136 Place of Safety for Four Boroughs

Thank you for your letter dated 20th January 2016 regarding the above matter. I too have some concerns regarding the centralised Place of Safety, primarily regarding the impact on Croydon residents who may travel further and consequently wait longer for an assessment under the Mental Health Act.

However, for some time I have had concerns about the local single Place of Safety on the site of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, for a number of reasons, including:

- Lack of a dedicated staff establishment for Place of Safety purposes
- Impact on the wards that currently provide the staff on an ad hoc basis
- Frequency of Place of Safety non-availability due to insufficient staff availability
- Frequency of Place of Safety non-availability due to the Place of Safety being already occupied
- Frequency of Place of Safety non-availability due to the room being damaged
- The impact that the above factors have on our commitments under the Crisis Care Concordat

While I remain to be convinced about the proposed model, I do feel that a purpose-built unit with dedicated staff and an increased capacity from four to six will result in net improvements to the current level of service experienced by our residents. With regard to your specific request, I can assure you that Croydon will offer full cooperation and support to your Borough in respect of the demands that the proposal may generate.

My understanding of Section 117 is that it is determined by the patient's ordinary residence immediately before being detained under the Act and on neither the location of the assessment nor on which Borough the AMHP comes from. Nevertheless I can assure you that Croydon Council would not seek to ascribe Section 117 liabilities to the London Borough of Southwark as a consequence of any action taken in relation to the Place of Safety.

I very much support the four Boroughs working together with SLAM to scope out the full implications of the proposal and confirm in principle my support to working together to undertake our respective roles and responsibilities with regard to our Boroughs' residents.

I have asked Brenda Scanlan, along with my Head of Mental Health Social Care Paul Richards, to cooperate fully with their counterparts in the other three Boroughs and with Cath Gormally to fully bottom out any consequences, intended or otherwise, of what the Trust puts forward. Paul and Brenda will aim to have some early discussions with Cath about this at the next of their regular three way meetings.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely



Paul Greenhalgh
Executive Director, People

cc Cath Gormally, SLAM Director of Social Care;
Brenda Scanlan, Croydon Director of Integrated Commissioning & Adult Care
Commissioning
Paul Richards, Croydon Head of Social Care (Mental Health)