

**Mental Health of Older Adults
Clinical Academic Group**

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Cllr Mark Williams
Chair, Southwark Health and Adult Social Care
Scrutiny sub-committee
160 Tooley Street
London SE1 2TZ

26th March 2012

Dear Cllr Williams,

**Re: SLaM: Consultation on the reorganisation of Mental Health of
Older Adults Service (MHOA)**

Thank you for your letter of 21st March 2012 addressed to Stuart Bell, Chief Executive. As I attended the meeting of the Southwark Council's Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 14th March 2012 to which your letter refers, Stuart has asked me to reply on his behalf.

In respect of the proposal by the Mental Health of Older Adults service to create a home treatment service to be funded by a reduction in hospital beds, I can confirm that the service is currently discussing this option with commissioners and will engage with other stakeholders, including users of services, their carers and organisations advocating on their behalf as part of this process. I acknowledge that the committee believes that such a proposal, if implemented, would constitute a significant variation in service and will proceed on this basis. I confirm that I will provide information on the three specific points outlined in your letter by 5th April in order for this information to be discussed at the next committee meeting on 10th April 2012.

There were a number of points raised at the meeting by Mr Tom White on behalf of the Southwark Pensioners Action Group regarding SLaM services for older people and I feel it is important to respond to those. I can clarify that the Felix Post Day Service was closed in 2009 following a Public Consultation exercise carried out in both Lambeth and Southwark with the involvement of both scrutiny committees. This process concluded that the service was not well integrated with social care and voluntary services and agreed that this activity should take place in community settings supported by the mental health teams. Holmhurst Day Centre is not a SLaM service and the decision

to merge this facility with the Fred Francis Day Centre was made by Southwark Social Services and the Mental Health of Older Adults service was not involved in this change. Finally the Becket Unit in Greenhive Care Home has not been closed but has moved to the Woodlands Specialist Care Unit near the Elephant and Castle and therefore continues to provide a service to Southwark residents.

I hope this information is of reassurance but should members require any more information then I would be pleased to provide this.

Yours sincerely,

David Norman
Service Director
Mental Health of Older Adults
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