

Appendix 3

Media Statement CQC Section 29A Warning Notice

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust has been issued with a Warning Notice by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) under Section 29A of the Health and Social Care Act.

The Notice requires the Trust to make significant improvements to the quality and safety of care and privacy and dignity of both inpatient and outpatients in a number of key areas. It also highlights a failure to provide treatment and care that is in line with national timescales and standards. The Trust is required to make the necessary improvements by 30 August 2016.

The Notice comes following the CQC's full inspection of the Trust in April and the report from this will be published later in the summer.

The Trust is already working hard on delivering an improvement plan designed to address the issues raised by the CQC and has taken action on the most immediate concerns since their April visit. These actions include amongst others:

- Escalation processes being changed to better manage patients at the Royal Sussex County Hospital during periods of high demand in the Emergency Department.
- A redesign of the Royal Sussex County Hospital Emergency Department, which will provide more cubicles for patient assessment and treatment from the beginning of July.
- Implementing patient quality and safety checklists in the Emergency Department and undertaking 'comfort rounds' to ensure waiting patients brought in by ambulance are comfortable.
- The opening of a 24/7 surgical assessment unit for patients referred by GPs.
- Putting in place new Trust-wide governance arrangements.
- Changes to the Trust Board and how it operates.

Dr Gillian Fairfield, Interim Chief Executive of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We are very sorry that we have let down our patients, their relatives and our local communities. For the Trust Board and our executive leadership the priority now is to do everything we can to put matters right and ensure that our patients receive the safe and high quality care that they deserve and have a right to expect.

"The CQC Warning Notice makes difficult reading and over the past ten weeks since my arrival here there have been a number of changes both at executive and non-executive board level and importantly changes to how we deliver care for our patients. We are working hard and closely with our partners on delivering an improvement plan designed to address the CQC's concerns and have taken action on the most immediate concerns since the April visit.

"It is a matter of public record that we are operating under difficult conditions with many old buildings that are difficult to maintain but this is no excuse. Whatever the constraints, we need to ensure that our patients receive safe, high quality care that fully respects their privacy and dignity."

Antony Kildare, Acting Chair of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We take the CQC feedback very seriously indeed. The CQC's full report will be published later in the summer and when it is we will offer the public a full account of what we are doing to put things right and what progress we've made. Until then our entire focus is on the achievement of rapid improvement."