

Mr Steve Shrubbs
Chief Executive
West London Mental Health NHS Trust
1 Armstrong Way
Southall
UB2 4SA

By email: 'steve.shrubbs@wlmht.nhs.uk'

Date: 12/08/2014

Dear Mr Shrubbs

BROADMOOR HOSPITAL SIRENS

I have just seen your letter of 28 July on return from abroad, and I have to say that I find it very unsatisfactory. Among my concerns are that your letter completely omits to respond to the principal point of our letter, concerning the negative impact of your proposals on the fear of crime felt by our residents. For that reason, I am struggling to feel reassured by your statement that the safety of local communities is foremost in your minds.

There are other aspects of letter which concern me too, for example:

- You mention cost. We would suggest that the cost of everything has to be judged alongside its benefits. The additional cost of replacing the remaining sirens, of £201,000, is less than 0.1% of the £252 million the Trust is spending on redeveloping Broadmoor. As well as being a tiny amount by comparison, it is a very modest investment to ensure that local people continue to feel safe.
- You say your consultation was directed at the town and parish councils, whereas the principal local authorities in the vicinity (Bracknell Forest, Wokingham and Surrey CC) have statutory responsibility for public protection, community safety and emergency planning.
- You say that the Trust has consulted all the 'affected' parish councils, yet as far as we are aware, you did not consult – among others - Binfield Parish Council.
- You say that no other parish councils have expressed objection. As they were not all consulted, this is not surprising. Conversely, we have seen a letter of objection from Wokingham Borough Council to you, and we understand that two parish/town councils may have also objected to the proposals. This does not support your contention that 'the overwhelming message has been one of support'.
- We find your reliance on social media, which is used by only a small part of the population, to be unconvincing and a wholly inadequate substitute for the instant mass communication which a siren brings.
- From our direct knowledge, it seems that the cascade system for schools is not a watertight as you claim.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Bracknell Forest Council, Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1AQ
T: 01344 352000 Minicom: 01344 352045 www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

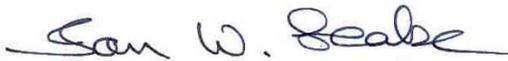
I will be replying more substantively once I have been able to consult people in this Council and others. Due to holiday absences, this will take a little time. Meanwhile, I would ask:

- For you to give me the dates and locations of all meetings held by the Trust with town and parish councils
- For your confirmation that the Trust's Board will not make a decision over the decommissioning of the sirens until you have considered my next letter, which I hope to send you within the next month.

If we are unable to achieve a satisfactory outcome to what we see as a very reasonable request, then I anticipate that we will see the need to summon you and the Trust's Chairman (to whom I am copying this letter, and my earlier) to a public meeting, possibly followed by our writing to the Secretary of State for Health.

I hope this letter leaves no doubt about the seriousness with which we view the Trust's plans. We are very disappointed that you seem to be dismissive of the real impact that turning off the sirens would have on the well-being of tens of thousands of local people. You also appear to be taking no heed of the priorities set by our Council and our Community Safety Partnership with the Police and other partner organisations.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ian Leake
Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny Commission

Copies to: Mr Nigel McCorkell; Councillor McCracken, Executive Member for Public Protection; Chief Executive; jacky.vincent@wlmht.nhs.uk

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