



**Berkshire Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Wokingham Hospital  
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust  
41 Barkham Road  
Wokingham  
Berkshire  
RG41 2XR  
**07827 234103**  
**Karen.Cridland@berkshire.nhs.uk**

Sonia Johnson  
Interim Director of Children's Services  
Bracknell Forest Council  
Berkshire

**11/01/2021**

**CAMHS Tier 4 in Berkshire**

**Dear Sonia**

Following our recent conversation, I wanted to formally write to you about the changes to the commissioning approach for Berkshire's Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Tier 4.

We currently provide nine in-patient beds for CAMHS Tier 4 at our Willow House unit in Wokingham. We had planned to build and develop a brand new facility at Prospect Park Hospital in Reading, however our commissioners (currently NHS England), want to deliver a new enhanced community care model for the majority of children and young people who are currently being admitted to inpatient units, in line with the ambitions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan.

With this change of approach, the build at Prospect Park Hospital will no longer go ahead and Willow House will close at the end of April 2020.

Instead, we will now work closely with our commissioners, the new Provider Collaborative Network, Clinical Commissioning Groups, as well as staff, patients and their families, to create and deliver a new 'out of hospital' clinical model that will ultimately ensure better care and outcomes for our children and young people in Berkshire. There are precedents already set for this in other parts of the country, which are showing excellent results.



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Our commissioners recognise there will always be a need for specialist, high-level inpatient care for a small number of young people and there are a number of units across the Thames Valley region which can provide these - including a large CAMHS unit near Maidenhead. This unit is also able to treat young people who require specialist inpatient eating disorder support or psychiatric intensive care, something we were not commissioned to offer at Willow House.

Our commissioners are also currently working across the network of Provider Collaboratives on a demand and capacity review to make sure there is the correct configuration of CAMHS Tier 4 services both now and in the future across the South East.

We hope you will recognise the benefits this transformation will bring, and we will continue to keep you fully informed about the development and implementation of this new model over the coming weeks and months.

We will also be pleased to present this new approach to your Health and Wellbeing Board so please do let us know when it would be convenient to do this.

I appreciate the additional pressures that you and your colleagues are already under dealing with Covid-19, and recognise that the timing of these changes may add to this, but I would like to thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like any further information.

Kind regards

*Karen Cridland.*

**Karen Cridland**

Director CYPF and BEDS



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