



Cllr C Allaway Martin
Chair of HCOSC
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall
Gloucester
GL1 2TG

ask for: Councillor Steve Jordan
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email: cllr.steve.jordan@cheltenham.gov.uk
our ref: SJ/BR
your ref:
date: 31 January 2019

Dear Cllr Allaway Martin,

At its meeting on 21 January, Cheltenham Borough Council debated a motion relating to the General Surgery proposals put forward by Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNFT) Board. The motion was carried with all party support.

I have been asked to contact you about the concerns raised. You will be aware that 58 Senior Doctors at the GHNFT signed a letter relating to patients from Cheltenham and elsewhere, who they believe will be put at greater risk as a result of the changes proposed. I believe you are considering whether to request that the 58 doctors concerned attend the planned HCOSC meeting on 20 February so they can air their concerns and that these can be examined. We would very much support this approach and I would be grateful if you could confirm that this will be happening.

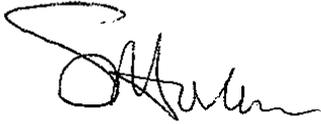
This council would like to ensure that HCOSC formally raises the following issues with the Trust:

- The specific patient safety issues raised in the doctors' letter.
- The Trust claims the proposed changes are being piloted but the concern is that once implemented they are irreversible and as such require public consultation and proper scrutiny in advance.
- The Trust undertook to examine all options for change, yet there is clear evidence to show that they have not all been properly assessed. This is particularly the case in relation to Option 4 and the Trust is requested to state why it has not fully examined this option.
- There are serious bed shortages at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. HCOSC is requested to ask the Trust for those shortages to be quantified and to examine how they are to be resolved.
- When Cheltenham's Surgical Registrar is withdrawn there is concern that this will lead to lack of professional supervision of and support for junior doctors.
- HCOSC is requested to look at the overall impact of the changes, including on the safety of patients, throughout Gloucestershire and in Worcestershire

(Gynaecological Cancers), Herefordshire (Urology and Gynaecological Cancers) and Wiltshire (Vascular Surgery), where those patients are treated in Cheltenham GH.

You will obviously appreciate the importance of the role HCOSC has on this and with thanks in advance for your assistance in raising these matters of great significance to people in Cheltenham and beyond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Jordan', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Steve Jordan
Leader of the Council