

21 July 2016

Dear Julia

CLOSURE OF THE RIDGEWAY CENTRE, HIGH WYCOMBE

I am writing to follow up on your email of 29 June 2016 – which advised that Cllr Brian Roberts, HASC chair, had no objections to our plans to close The Ridgeway Centre in High Wycombe.

Following consultation with yourselves and also with Oxfordshire HOSC, I wanted to inform you that the Trust has now made the decision to proceed with the closure of The Ridgeway Centre on 1 September 2016.

This decision was reached after communications with the people who use our services, their carers, our staff and local patient groups. This included letters, information leaflets, easy read documents and the offer of a meeting for those Oxfordshire people (and their families) who had had an inpatient stay at The Ridgeway Centre in the past year.

As detailed in my briefing paper, the decision has been made in light of the wider planned changes to learning disability services across Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Specifically to protect the safety of our patients and to ensure the highest quality care for the people we care for in the long term.

Importantly, the number of learning disability inpatient beds being commissioned and provided for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire patients will remain unchanged. The change is simply *where* these beds will be provided in the future, to ensure the safest and best possible care for people when they need a specialist inpatient stay.

If you'd like to further discuss any aspect of The Ridgeway Centre closure, please do call me on 01865 228090.

Kind regards,

D. Schell

Donna Schell
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Learning Disability Services
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust