

Tony Bell
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Ann Gerrard/
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Dear Tony

Re: HBC's response to the consultation of Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust's application for Foundation Status: "Your Alder hey Have Your Say"

In responding to this consultation, we welcome the Trust's commitment to improving services through seeking Foundation status. The statutory requirements around financial balance will clearly be a key priority for the Trust and this forms the basis for the majority of our concerns.

In achieving financial balance we recognise the difficulties faced by the Trust with the introduction of Payment by Results. Receiving an average payment for treatment of an average patient clearly disadvantages a Trust such as Alder Hey where the majority of patients have complex conditions. Whilst we are reassured that Department of Health recognises the need to adjust the tariff for specialist children's hospitals, we remain concerned that the shortfall under PbR for Alder Hey seems disproportionately large relative to other children's' trusts (i.e. in alder Hey's case £11.03m). We would be grateful for clarification on this matter.

Whilst Halton residents comprise a small percentage of total number of patients utilising Alder Hey, they are all the same highly significant; not least because of their complex needs. Given the specialised and expensive nature of the health interventions for these young people we are concerned that the services involved may be a target for cuts. Halton has a disproportionate number of people on benefits or in receipt of a low income and hence to travel further would be highly detrimental to their welfare and family cohesion.

As you may be aware, Halton has established a directorate for Children & Young People. This directorate is in the process of further developing pooled budgets for a wide range of services affecting children and young people. This will entail a single referral, assessment, plan and review. Given these developments, we are concerned to know whether funding arrangements, assessment of need, nature of the workforce and the range of provision will change as a result of Foundation status.

The increased flexibilities inherent to foundation status provide scope for generating income. We are interested to learn more on the policy to be adopted in this respect. Given the age of your clients, many are likely to be impressionable and the fact that all of your clients will be in receipt of some kind of health intervention they are likely to be vulnerable. Careful consideration will therefore need to be given to which organisations can promote their interests, as well as their marketing and publicity.

Finally, whilst we recognise that careful consideration has been given to membership and accountability, we would appreciate clarification on the process for selecting representatives on the council of governors.

I hope you find our response constructive and helpful and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Ann Gerrard
Executive Board Member for Health & Social Care &

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Executive Board Member for Children & Young People