

Date: 25 March 2015

Ref: GOV/DS/ST

Your Ref:



Epping Forest District Council

Sir Stephen O'Brien,
Chair, Barts Health NHS Trust,
Ground Floor,
Pathology and Pharmacy Building,
The Royal London Hospital,
80 Newark Street,
London, E1 2ES.

Members' Room

Civic Offices, High Street,
Epping, Essex, CM16 4BZ

Enquiries to:

Mr. S. Tautz (01992) 564180
stautz@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Dear Sir Stephen,

Barts Health NHS Trust - Whipps Cross University Hospital

As you will be aware, Whipps Cross University Hospital provides a range of general inpatient, outpatient and other medical and emergency services, to a significant part of the population of the Epping Forest District.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been extremely worried to read the recent (17 March 2015) report of the Care Quality Commission on its 'inadequate' judgement of the quality of care at Whipps Cross Hospital, particularly in terms of the implications of the findings of the Commission for the healthcare requirements of the Council's residents.

Whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepts that Barts Health NHS Trust is no doubt already seeking to address the areas of concern identified by the Care Quality Commission, the Committee would welcome an opportunity to hear from you personally in connection with your detailed plans for improvement. The Committee has therefore asked that you be invited to attend its meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 9 June 2015, here at the Civic Offices in Epping, to report to members in this respect. This will be a public meeting, with an opportunity for questioning by our councillors.

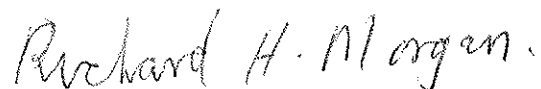
Although the review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services across Essex is generally a function reserved to Essex County Council, the County Council is not normally averse to this authority undertaking appropriate health scrutiny where real local concerns exist. This may involve reviewing the work of commissioners (such as local clinical commissioning groups), providers of health services (such as hospitals) and other organisations in the health sector. As a matter of courtesy, a copy of this letter has therefore been sent to the Chairman of Essex County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Perhaps you would be kind enough to contact this Council's Democratic Services Manager, Mr. S. Tautz, on the details above, to confirm that you will be able to attend the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June.

In the meantime, it would be helpful if you could provide my Committee with an overview of the Trust's immediate intentions for achievement of the significant improvements required by the Care Quality Commission in relation to core services provided at Whipps Cross. This information can also be supplied to Mr. Tautz, who will ensure that it is made available to the members of the Committee.

I look forward to meeting you on 9 June 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard H. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'M'.

Councillor Richard Morgan
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee