

Chair

Eileen Mullan

Chief Executive

Dr Maria O'Kane

27th January 2023

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION ON REFORMING EMERGENCY GENERAL SURGERY PROVISION ACROSS SOUTHERN TRUST

I am writing to let you know of the Southern Trust's plans to commence a period of public consultation on the proposal to provide Emergency General Surgery Services on the Craigavon Area Hospital Site 24 hours per day 7 days per week. This is in keeping with the current service model with a number of enhancements to enable the Trust to meet Regional Standards as set out by the Department of Health.

I therefore wish to advise that the public consultation has commenced for a 12 week period from 27th January 2023 to 21st April 2023.

I must stress that it is only after this period of public consultation that a decision will be made by Trust Board.

Documents relating to the consultation can be accessed from the Trust website:

<https://southerntrust.hscni.net/involving-you/consultations/>

These papers outline the background to this consultation, and why it is important that we engage with our community on how this service will be provided in the future.

As part of the consultation process the Trust will be holding three online information events to hear more about our proposal. Due to the rising

cases of flu and current winter pressures, we are holding the events online to encourage as many people as possible to attend.

Dates for the information events are as follows:

Friday 24 February – 11am until 1pm

Friday 3 March – 2pm until 4pm

Thursday 9 March – 6pm until 8pm

These events will provide the opportunity for you to hear more about the proposals and to give your feedback.

To register for one of the events please contact the Trust's Corporate Planning Team detailing which date you wish to attend and we will forward the link to join.

We recognise that online engagement does not suit everyone and we are happy to meet in person with any group or representative organisation. Please contact the Trust's Corporate Planning Team, if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

We welcome your views on our proposal. A consultation questionnaire is available on our website for you to complete, however, we welcome your comments in any format. We are consulting for 12 weeks beginning 27th January 2023. Comments should be returned to the Corporate Planning Administration Office by 21st April 2023.

All enquiries regarding this consultation and responses to the public consultation should be directed to:

Ms Cathrine Reid

Interim Director of Surgery and Elective Care, Integrated Maternity and Women's Health, Cancer and Clinical Services

Southern Health & Social Care Trust

c/o Corporate Planning Administration Office

The Brackens

Craigavon Area Hospital

68 Lurgan Road

Portadown

Co. Armagh

BT63 5QQ

Tel: 02837564819

E-mail: consultations@southerntrust.hscni.net

If you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'm. okane'.

Dr Maria O'Kane

Chief Executive