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## Appendix A

FAO Jonathon Partridge  
HOSC Officer  
Central Bedfordshire Council

26 September 2013

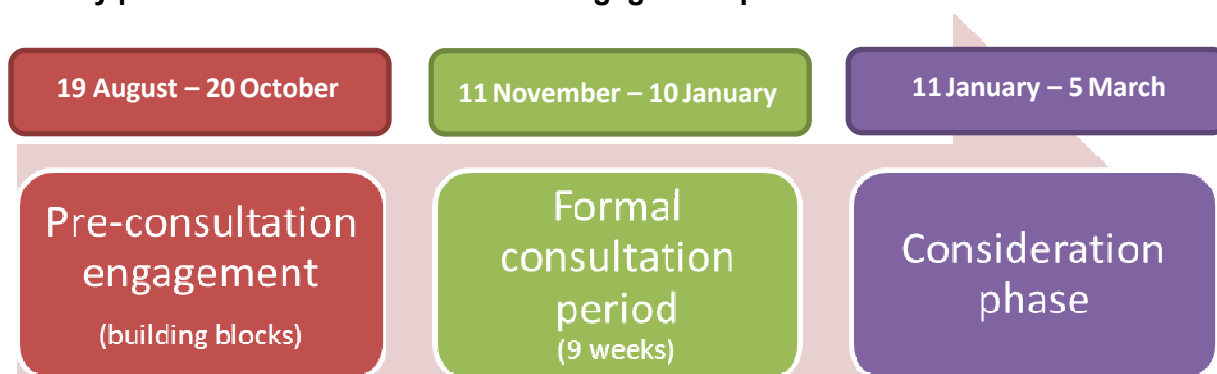
Dear Jonathon

I felt that it was important to write to you with information on our plans for consultation regarding the future of paediatric services in Bedfordshire – both at Bedford hospital and also in the community. You may already be aware of problems at Bedford Hospital which led to some of the children’s services being suspended earlier this year. Serious concerns were raised about the training and supervision of junior doctors in the paediatric department at the hospital. In July, this led the General Medical Council to withdraw several of the junior doctors from paediatrics. As a result of losing these specialist staff Bedford Hospital was unable to run some key children’s services. As healthcare commissioners, and practising GPs, we know how difficult the removal of children’s health services from Bedford Hospital has been for our families, despite the support of neighbouring hospitals in delivering robust interim arrangements.

We want safe, local paediatric services that meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people in Bedfordshire. However, we know from that the previous model of delivery wasn’t sustainable, particularly the longstanding problem of attracting sufficient numbers of permanent senior doctors. We have therefore begun a project to commission a high quality, future-proof model for children’s services in Bedfordshire. This is why we are not just reviewing those services provided in hospital but those that are in the community as well. We wish to explore the opportunities to provide better, more personalised services than we have had before.

It is vital that we get the right model of care in place – a model that delivers high quality, safe, sustainable healthcare for our children and young people. As a result, we are approaching this project using three key phases that will result in a final decision on the model of delivery by the CCG’s governing body on 5 March 2014.

### The key phases of the consultation and engagement process:



Bedfordshire CCG has no pre-conceived ideas on the future model of paediatric services that might best deliver safe, high quality care for Bedfordshire families. We realise how important it is to listen and to use the feedback and information from children, young people, their families, and the many groups, communities and individuals who are and will be affected by the healthcare we commission. We want to work closely and in partnership with patients, parents and carers, our member practices and other key stakeholders throughout all three phases of this project.

We have presented our proposed consultation and engagement process to Bedford Borough Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee which has resolved that this is a substantial variation to services and therefore acknowledged the need to consult on paediatric services in Bedfordshire.

We also felt that it was important to write to you and give you the opportunity to get involved in the consultation and engagement process and ask how best we can engage with you - it would be helpful if you could advise me on how you would like to move forward. I would also like to advise you that Bedford Borough Council is in the process of forming a JOSC to look at this specific consultation. Should you consider this process to be a substantial variation to services and wish to become involved in the JOSC please contact Jacqueline Gray from Bedford Borough Council as soon as possible – please bear in mind that the formal consultation starts on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Jacqueline can be contacted on 01234 228486 or [jacqueline.gray@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.gray@bedford.gov.uk).

We have established a website [www.yourhealthinbedfordshire.co.uk](http://www.yourhealthinbedfordshire.co.uk) to keep all stakeholders updated on the consultation and have started to issue a weekly e-mail update, I have requested that you are added onto the distribution list for this.

We want what is best and safest for patients and their families. We will continue to keep you updated as we move through the process but in the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Diane Gray  
Director of Strategy & System Re-design  
Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

