



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Lynne Hunt  
Chair of Non-Executive Directors  
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Tatchbury Mount  
Calmore  
Southampton SO40 2RZ

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

Dear Lynne,

I hope you are well.

Please see attached a letter I have today sent to the Health Secretary Matt Hancock regarding my concerns about the performance of Southern Health and the seven areas which I believe are priorities for improvement.

As I state in my letter – which has been co-signed by four other Hampshire MPs – it is welcome that Southern Health has committed to a programme of transformational change to address the failings of the recent past. A key element of the transformation is the introduction of a recognised world class quality improvement programme that empowers the front line staff, service users and their families, giving them a real say in co-producing the type of services required to better meet customer need, designing how services are delivered in the communities where they live and work and agreeing recovery care plans with healthcare professionals.

While fellow Hampshire MPs and I believe this to be the right approach, we are concerned that there needs to be a greater focus on real outcome measures that truly illustrate how effective the service is at helping people to recover from lack of mental wellbeing and resume meaningful and rewarding lives within their families and communities.

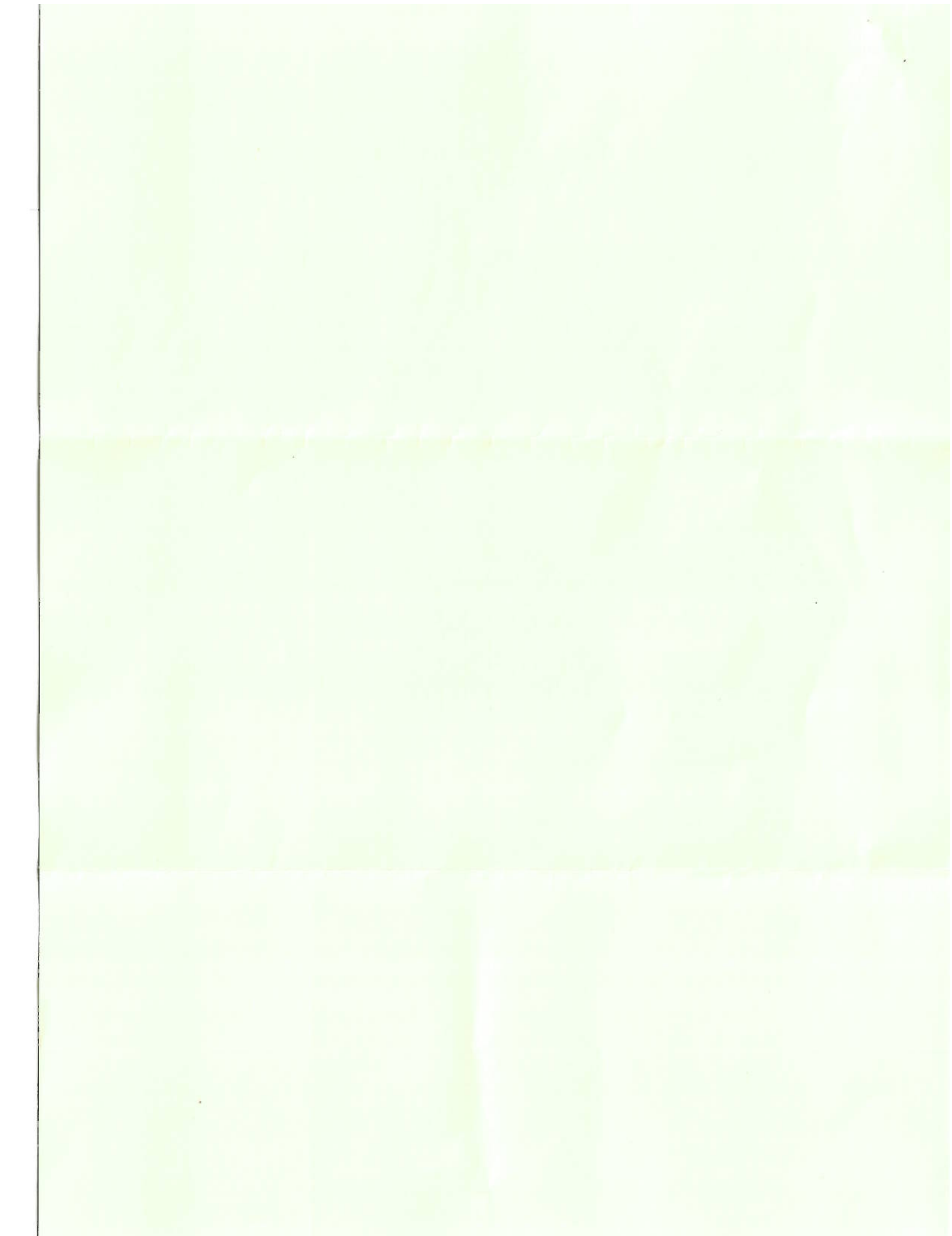
I have therefore written to the Health Secretary to outline the seven areas that we believe should be improved and to learn what he and his department can do to facilitate this and help the trust improve its performance.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future to discuss the Trust's performance and the important work it is doing for the people of Hampshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suella Braverman".

**Suella Braverman MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Fareham**







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The Rt Hon Matt Hancock  
Secretary of State for Health & Social Care  
Department of Health & Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

Dear Matt,

**Re: Southern Health Foundation Trust**

I write to you regarding a serious ongoing problem relating to Southern Health.

Together with other MPs in Hampshire, I have been involved with families who have experienced tragic hardships and loss due to categorical failures at Southern Health Foundation Trust. Southern Health has in the past been in the spotlight due to both failing patients and the subsequent inadequate investigations into deaths of patients. The problems have been raised in Parliament on several occasions and I led a Westminster Hall debate in 2016.

Southern Health has committed to a programme of transformational change to address the many and repeated failings of the recent past. A key element of the transformation is the introduction of a recognised world class quality improvement programme that empowers the front line staff, service users and their families giving them a real say in coproducing the type of services required to better meet customer (service user and family/friend carer) need, designing how services are delivered in the communities where they live and work and most importantly agreeing recovery care plans with healthcare professionals.

Whilst we believe this to be the right approach, we are concerned that there needs to be a greater focus on real outcome measures that truly illustrate how effective the service is at helping people to recover from lack of mental wellbeing and resume meaningful and rewarding lives within their families and communities.

There remain some significant challenges that need to be addressed by the Trust as a priority within its transformation programme. Central amongst these is the continued and escalating use of mental health acute service out of area beds at an on-going cost of £12m per year. Furthermore, there is a significant lack of health and social care support available within the community, particularly for older people, to counter this reliance on the acute provision.



By focussing more on real outcomes for patients and by investing more in localised support services, including support with housing and employment, we believe a significant reduction in out of area placements is readily achievable.

We believe the following must be priorities for the Trust:

- 1 **Out of area bed use is a major problem.** In October 2018, over 50 patients were treated out of area at a cost of £12 million a year. This is unsustainable and a gross overspend in a context of funding strains.
- 2 **Community Health services for adults and older persons is poorly funded.** Investment cannot be made here whilst out of area bed spending is unacceptably high.
- 3 NHS England and Commissioners need to provide **ring fenced funding of £5 million to support and grow community mental health services at Southern Health.** A system where patients can be discharged from inpatient and out of area beds to reduce costs and transition to better community services to support these people will lead to better outcomes and enable
- 4 **Southern Health needs to subscribe to a culture of continual improvement and best practice** through the introduction of outcome measures for all mental health services that are given at the time of treatment by service users and family members of service users to highlight efficacy.
- 5 **An effective Triangle of Care should be mandated** to ensure people suffering with mental distress can be assessed and treated following discussion and agreement with the service user, family of the user and relevant healthcare professional. The current Triangle of Care model is not fit for purpose and not applied consistently throughout the Trust.
- 6 **Southern Health should consider the training of GPs in Mental Health and Learning Disability.** For instance, Clinical Psychology formulation and Psycho-Social therapy could be set up as pilots as part of a new model of care for people under mental stress.
- 7 **Medical Examiners that are independent of the Trust are vital for transparency** when patients die.

I am grateful in advance for your full attention on this matter and would be grateful if you were to meet with me and Hampshire colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



**Suella Braverman**  
**Member of Parliament for Fareham**

Cc:

Dr Nick Broughton, Chief Executive, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

Ms Lynne Hunt, Chair of Non-Executive Directors, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust



**Co-signatories:**

*Maria Miller*

**Maria Miller MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Basingstoke**

*Sir Desmond Swayne*

**Sir Desmond Swayne MP**  
**Member of Parliament for New Forest West**

*Caroline Dinenage*

**Caroline Dinenage MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Gosport**

*Ranil Jayawardena*

**Ranil Jayawardena MP**  
**Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire**

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