

**Chair**  
Eileen Mullan

**Chief Executive**  
Dr Maria O'Kane

30 September 2022

Dear Consultee

## **CONSULTATION ON INPATIENT DEMENTIA SERVICES PROPOSAL**

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I am writing to let you know about the Southern Trust's plans to commence a period of public consultation on the following proposal:

**Inpatient Dementia Services in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust** - the proposed future service model would see the creation of a specialist inpatient dementia unit within the Bluestone Mental Health unit on the Craigavon Area Hospital site.

The Southern Trust had a stand-alone inpatient dementia assessment and treatment unit on the Gillis Ward, St Luke's Hospital, Armagh. In May 2022, patients in Gillis Ward were relocated to Willows Ward, Bluestone Unit, Craigavon Area Hospital as an interim contingency arrangement to ensure patient safety and quality of care when dedicated Consultant Psychiatry cover could not be secured.

I therefore wish to advise that the public consultation has commenced for a 12 week period from 3 October 2022 to 23 December 2022.

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.

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

Ms Jan McGall  
Director of Mental Health and Disability 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](mailto:consultations@southerntrust.hscni.net)

To encourage involvement the Trust will consider any requests to provide feedback via sessions facilitated by Southern Trust. If you wish to discuss an opportunity to input to the consultation process in this way please contact us, contact details as noted above.

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

Yours sincerely



**DR MARIA O'KANE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**