NHS
Dorset
Integrated Care Board

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04 November 2022

Jonathan Higman
Chief Executive
NHS Somerset
Wynford House
Lufton Way
Lufton
Yeovil
Somerset
BA22 8HR

Sent via email: jonathan.higman@nhs.net

Dear Jonathan,

RE: SOMERSET HYPERACUTE STROKE RECONFIGURATION

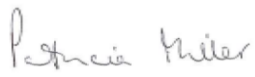
Many thanks for our recent discussions and communication regarding the planned reconfiguration of hospital-based stroke services in Somerset. Thank you for requesting a statement of support from partner organisations ahead of the NHS England and Improvement stage 2 assurance process.

By way of this letter, I can confirm NHS Dorset's engagement in developing the Somerset proposals and our support in principle for the planned consultation to consider moving to one hyperacute stroke unit in Somerset.

Our ability to support any potential change is dependent on changes within the Dorset system and there is currently a business case to enhance services at Dorset County Hospital (DCH) from a 5-day acute stroke unit to a 7-day hyper acute stroke unit with enhanced community rehabilitation. The business case currently provides for the existing level of activity which will increase with a change in services at Yeovil District Hospital. We will be happy to work with your team on the implications for the DCH service. We would also need to work through the implications for community services and rehabilitation as these are probably best delivered closer to the patients' home in Somerset.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you as you move from consultation to making your decision on the future configuration of stroke care for the benefit of the communities we serve.

Yours sincerely



Patricia Miller
Chief Executive Officer
NHS Dorset