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Dear Colleague

Consultation on changes to Mental Health Services

I am writing to let you know the outcome of the Board meeting yesterday evening. The Trust Board met to consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee request that the consultation period should be extended. I wrote to you on 16th June to explain the background to the initial agreement by the OSC in May to a shortened consultation period and then the OSC's decision in June to seek an extension.

Members of the Board considered carefully the request made by the OSC and also the feedback that had been received in some of the public meetings and from some partner organisations that a longer period of consultation would be helpful in enabling organisations and individuals to respond to the Trust's proposals. Members of the Board also had in mind the real financial pressures that had prompted the initial proposals to the OSC that the consultation period should be condensed – that is to say we would undertake the expected amount of public consultation activity in a shortened time period.

Weighing these issues in the balance members of the Board recognised that extending the consultation period makes it highly likely that we will need to take action to further reduce spending this year. Having considered all of the representations received, the Board decided to extend the consultation period so that it will end on Friday 11th August. Organisations and individuals wishing to make responses should therefore ensure that they are received by the Trust by that date.

The Trust has agreed arrangements with the OSC to enable the outcome of consultation to be shared with and considered by the OSC during the week of 21st August and the Trust Board will meet on Thursday 31st August to decide whether the proposals are to be implemented.

I expect to write to statutory partners and interested parties next week to share the themes that have emerged in the public meeting phase of the consultation programme.

Yours sincerely

JEFF JAMES
Chief Executive

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - CHANGES TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Trust is publicly consulting on proposals that relate to inpatient and day hospital services for adults of working age and older people. The changes the organisation wishes to make are set out in the document '**Consultation on Changes to Mental Health Services Proposed by the Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust**'. Please contact Deborah Richards on 01452 891094 if you would like a copy. The document is also available on the Trust's website at:

http://www.partnershiptrust.org.uk/content/services/mh_consultation.htm

Film Presentation

A short film has been made explaining the proposals and why they are necessary. The film explains how people may offer comments or raise questions and may be viewed by visiting www.partnershiptrust.org.uk

Responding to the Consultation

Written responses may be sent to the Trust at 'Communications Manager, Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Rikenel, Montpellier, Gloucester, GL1 1LY' or faxed to 01452 891105. Feedback may be emailed to servicechanges@glos.nhs.uk. You can also offer feedback via the Trust's website at www.partnershiptrust.org.uk

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Chief Executive: Jeff James