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Dear Colleague

**Consultation regarding the relocation of the Prosthetic service for North East London and Essex**

I am writing to advise you that we are launching a 28 day consultation regarding the proposed relocation of the NHSE commissioned prosthetic service for the North East London Region.

This regional service has been delivered by NELFT in a building in Havering for the last 9 years; prior to that it was delivered in the same premises by a different community provider.

The service is complex as it involves the clinical delivery of assessment and treatment of patients with limb loss. The service is delivered in partnership with the manufacturer of the prosthetics on the same site to support the patient journey. The current manufacturer is a company called Steeper. In order to deliver the service the building requires both clinical and industrial areas; as such the site has to be of an appropriate size.

Unfortunately, the building in Havering that currently houses the service has not been fit for purpose for some time. The fabric of the building is dated and has infection control and health and safety compliance issues posing risk to the patients that use the service. As a result the service is currently on our NELFT risk register; these issues were also noted in a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in 2016.

To address the concerns noted NELFT in conjunction with our colleagues from NHSE and NHS Property Services (NHSPS) have explored staying in the same building. This option required undertaking vast renovations and unfortunately this option was not deliverable.

As a result, we have been for the last 3 years trying to source an alternative building and have reviewed several options, but until this point no building identified delivered against the needs of the operational delivery, patient, space and parking requirements.

In 2018 a building owned by NELFT became vacant and presented a new option and we have been working this through with NHSE and service user representatives throughout 2019. The option has been approved by the NELFT Board.

The view from NHSE is that formal consultation led by them regarding the proposed move is not required; this is due to the fact that the service is currently provided from a regional centre moving to another regional location based in the same commissioned foot print. They are in support of NELFT taking actions to rectify the health and safety concerns and infection prevention issues which are

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pressing. NHSE have however advised that a consultation regarding relocation of the prosthetics service is required under section 242 duties.

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken regarding the new building and service move has identified that most patients are primarily transported to the service. We will be continuing to provide transport for patients.

As a result we are commencing a 28 day period of consultation. Whilst we are commissioned to deliver this service by NHSE, we are aware that residents within your borough may be affected by this change and therefore wanted to inform you of the proposals via the power point pack attached. We are sending to all the relevant clinical commissioning groups (CCG's). The pack also contains relevant information and FAQs together with contact details where concerns/other questions can be raised.

We will be contacting each individual patient affected by the relocation directly between now and April to understand their needs and to support them through any changes.

During the period of consultation should you have any queries or wish to speak to me directly with any concerns please use the email address [commentsprosthetics@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:commentsprosthetics@nelft.nhs.uk).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries via the contact details above.

Yours sincerely



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**Havering Integrated Care Director**