



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Caroline Dinenage MP
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Tom Pursglove MP
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22 May 2019

Dear Tom,

It is my pleasure to write to you regarding NHS England and NHS Improvement's decision to remove Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust from special measures for quality reasons today (22 May 2019), following a recommendation from the Care Quality Commission in its latest inspection report of the Trust.

This turnaround in the quality of the Trust's care is testament to the efforts of the Trust's staff and Board and a clear sign of the very positive progress being made at the Trust since it was placed in special measures for quality reasons by NHS Improvement in April 2017.

I am especially pleased to see that the Care Quality Commission's rating for the important "Well-led" inspection domain has improved from "Requires improvement" to "Good". This is a particularly significant improvement as this domain assesses the leadership, management and governance of Trusts to make sure that they are providing high quality care.

In addition, the Trust has retained its "Good" rating for the "Caring" inspection domain, and improved its ratings for both maternity and diagnostic imaging services from "Requires improvement" to "Good".

The Care Quality Commission's report also highlighted examples of outstanding practice at the Trust, including:

- Kettering General Hospital's re-accreditation with the UNICEF baby friendly initiative stage three, which is the top award accredited to organisations by UNICEF in that area and recognised the Trust's support for mothers and education of staff in relation to infant feeding;
- excellent work in the Trust's outpatient chemotherapy services, such as an electronic prescribing system for chemotherapy in line with best practice guidance; and

- a review of staff and clinic space usage by the outpatient matron that enabled managers to provide more clinics to more patients.

The improvements made are certainly impressive and I would like to commend the Trust's staff and Board for the dedication and hard work they have demonstrated in ensuring the delivery of care quality improvements for the benefit of patients.

Clearly there is still work to be done to embed the necessary improvements, with the Care Quality Commission rating the Trust "Requires improvement" overall, and NHS England and NHS Improvement will continue to support the Trust to deliver the highest quality of care for patients.

The Trust's removal from special measures for quality reasons is a significant achievement and I will take a keen interest in developments at the Trust as it continues to improve its services for the benefit of patients. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the Trust on its success.



CAROLINE DINENAGE