

Trisha Bain

Chief Quality Officer, LAS

May 29th 2018

Dear Trisha,

I am writing to follow up our discussion about the LAS’s approach to the development of PSPs.

Whilst we fully understand that an effective protocol must have high quality clinical input, the approach which has been adopted appears to exclude the patient and/or carer, who should be at the centre of the PSP. The clinician exists to serve the patient not to be a substitute. How can a PSP be free of high level patient input?

The document PSP Update – Oct 2017, has no direct patient/carer input and in that respect governance of the process will be very weak. Any document about a patient should be subject to joint discussion and agreement. Asking a 3rd party if the patient has agreed to the PSP fundamental disempowers the patient and undermines the right of the patient or carer (if that person has power of attorney) to give consent.

Secondly, the process should be flexible to the initiation of a PSP by patients and carers. Surely, a patient has a right to invite their medical practitioner to work with them to create a PSP. This requires guidance for patients and carers about how to initiate the PSP process, and the guidance should be placed on the LAS public website.

I look forward to discussing this matter further with you.

Very best wishes

Malcolm Alexander

Chair

Patients’ Forum for the LAS

Copy to: Michael Ward, Head of Quality and Governance