

Sent via email to:

██████████  
██████████

**Worthing Hospital**  
**Lyndhurst Road**  
**Worthing**  
**West Sussex**  
**BN11 2DH**  
[www.uhsussex.nhs.uk](http://www.uhsussex.nhs.uk)

██████████  
**Direct Dial: 01273 664668 (Senior Executive Assistant)**

6 November 2024

Dear Jo,

I wanted to formally extend my gratitude to you for attending the hepatology and palliative care meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We greatly appreciate you taking time to share the experience of your partner, Jo. It is a privilege and essential for the service to have these reflections and work with the experience of patients.

Further to the meeting there was an agreement we have an unmet need around palliative care and end of life care in hepatology at Royal Sussex County hospital and at Worthing and St Richards Hospital. Moving forward the agreed key points from the meeting included an audit being undertaken, a business case for expansion and a charity grant application. I wanted to provide assurance of the next steps we have taken and expand upon these further.

We heard about excellent work at Worthing hospital with hepatology and palliative care which provided a model that maps to national guidance. Professor Verma is leading and working with the national team on the audit on the faculty of ascites and being present on basal and AA LSD.

We are proactively working on a business case to support the expansion of palliative care team in order to start delivering routine palliative care team training. Stephen Bass will lead on this with cross site hepatology leads with the support of the general managers to map the demand and capacity.

Within our current staffing model we will be working towards a collaborative approach, we are in the process of establishing funding for consultant time to attend hepatology MDT at all sites and have a weekly MDT to review inpatients and advanced liver disease patients. We agreed to move to clinical nurse specialist time with specialist interest in hepatology.

With regards to the charity grant, Stephen Bass is in the process of submitting the grant. This will support with the expanding of communication skills training.

In addition to the above we will be holding a further joint cross site hepatology team and palliative care in 8 weeks.

Thank you once again for your time.

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Katie Urch', written over a light grey dotted grid background.

**Professor Katie (C) Urch**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**University Hospitals Sussex (UHSx)**

Cc.

Councillor Theresa Fowler, Chair of Brighton & Hove Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)  
Dr Ollie Minton, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, UHSx  
Stephen Bass, Lead Nurse Palliative & End of Life Care, UHSx  
Dr Suzanne Ford-Dunn, Consultant in Palliative Medicine  
Prof Sumita Verma, Hon Consultant in Hepatology, UHSx  
Dr Stephen Kriese, Chief of Service, Division of Medicine, UHSx