

Security Department

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Dear parent,

I am writing to you ahead of our move to the new Broadmoor Hospital when it opens in December. The siren at Cricket Field Grove has now been decommissioned. We will sound the new siren, which is located in the grounds of the hospital every Monday morning until and including 25th November. If you live very nearby you may have heard this since we started testing it last Monday. After 25th November, the Broadmoor siren will no longer be sounded unless there were to be an escape from the hospital. Decommissioning of the sirens will be supported by the Thames Valley Alert System (TVA), a community alert system currently operated by Thames Valley Police. In the highly unlikely event of a patient escape, the siren will sound informing everyone in the immediate vicinity, while those registered for Thames Valley Broadmoor Hospital alerts will receive a message in their chosen format.

The new hospital has been built to meet the standards equivalent to a category B prison. We have employed the latest security systems throughout the hospital and employ highly trained staff to manage these systems. Additionally we manage the risks associated with our patient group by procedural and relationship processes.

The sirens were first introduced in 1952. Since then security at Broadmoor has evolved in terms of technology and procedures. The sirens were based on WWII technology using copper wire links provided by BT. A number of years ago, we made the decision not to replace the sirens when they started to fail. Repairing the sirens was no longer feasible and replacing the copper links with fibre optic cables was considered to be cost prohibitive.

We will continue using the school cascade system, and work closely with the police and local authority in testing the effectiveness of this system. However, I would like to encourage all parents to register for TVAs register by visiting www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

John Hourihan
Director of Security