

Neil Evans,
Clinical Commissioning Director,
NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

24th June 2015

Dear Neil,

I am writing on behalf of the ***Hands Off Hollins View Campaign Group***. We are continuing our work to ensure there is sufficient, accessible and local respite residential care as well as community resources, for adults and older people.

You replied my letter (of 28th January 2015) on 9th February 2015. As Cheshire East Council seem now determined to go ahead and close Hollins View in Macclesfield and Lincoln Court in Crewe, and as your own plans for Intermediate Care have themselves changed and developed this year we are requesting further information from the Group as we continue our Campaign.

1. **INTERMEDIATE CARE:** The Trust planned to cease use of Intermediate Care at Hollins View Residential Home from 31 March 2015. Would you explain the reasons this did not go ahead and would you let us know what are your present plans for Intermediate Care. Details of your new timetable and future plans in terms of number of beds, specific locations and centres would be appreciated. As you may guess there is much concern from patients and families about what the Trust is hoping to do to improve the provision of Intermediate Care to prevent unnecessary hospital care.
2. **STAIRRS PROGRAMME:** Please would you let us know how this approach is going. Has it been successful in reducing the risk of hospital bed blocking? We assume there has been a review of the approach following the pressures over winter and spring. We hear of patients blocking hospital beds in this area and others waiting to be discharged from out of area hospitals, so details of your assessment of the programme would be appreciated.
3. **JOINT WORKING WITH CHESHIRE EAST:** You stated in your letter you understood Cheshire East was committed to ***“maintaining the capacity of respite beds and to the expansion of respite care options to include more alternatives to bed based provision.”*** Do you know if this commitment has been fulfilled? If not, has the Board made any representations to Cheshire East to find out their plans? Have any answers been received and if so what were they?

Why are we concerned? Only this last week Age UK revealed that in the last year from April 2014 to March 2015 shortages in community health & social care services have meant the NHS has wasted hundreds of thousands of bed-days. Those kept in hospital unnecessarily increased by 19.3% on the previous year, 44% more patients were waiting for health & social care packages at home compared to the previous year, and there was an increase of 32% more patients waiting for a place in a nursing home. Cheshire East is not immune from these major problems which must result in bed blocking and must, we assume, be creating serious problems in elective surgery targets

With cost cutting pending by both Cheshire East and the CCG this situation can only become more critical for patients and families.

Your response is requested.

David Wood