



**Eastern Cheshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

REF: CM/NE

1st Floor West Wing
New Alderley Building
Macclesfield District General Hospital
Victoria Road
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK10 3BL

Tel: 01625 663824
c.malkin@nhs.net
www.easterncheshireccg.nhs.uk

21 November 2014

Dear Mr Wood

Re: Hollins View Community Support Centre

I write in response to your letter of 18 November 2014 to Jerry Hawker, our Chief Officer. Jerry is on leave at the time of writing but asked me to reply in his stead rather than delay our response.

As a clinically-led organisation committed to inspiring better health and wellbeing, the CCG recognises the value of services provided at Hollins View Community Support Centre. Hollins View has been a valuable service for people needing care and support in a place of safety.

Equally, the CCG considers Cheshire East Council a valued partner in the provision of joined-up care and respects its right to review its respite care facilities at Hollins View and elsewhere in the pursuit of value for money and service excellence.

In answer to your questions, the CCG can confirm that the Council did not invite it to participate in a joint risk assessment, nor have we seen this risk assessment of the intended closure of Hollins View. However, the Council did inform the CCG of the proposed closure and their potential alternative approach to meeting the needs of the local population.

The CCG and Council work collaboratively to assure ourselves as to the quality of care being received in care homes, and to ensure improvements are made where care is felt to be below acceptable standards.

It is important to stress that the intermediate care service at Hollins View will remain available at least until March 2015, at which time the continuing need for it will be reviewed against the progress of a new, jointly developed, service to build packages of care around individuals as they return home following hospital discharge. As part of this development we are assessing the future demand for intermediate care beds; which is the service where we commission a number of beds at Hollins View, along with other sites in Macclesfield, Congleton and Knutsford.

The proposed STAIRRS service (Short-Term Assessment, Integrated Response and Recovery Service) should be operational by December 2014 and will see a wide range of health and social care professionals working together to make sure patients get the care and support they need as they return home. This new service will also complement existing intermediate care services such as the Acute Visiting Service which sees GPs supporting patients in the community to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

The CCG is confident that the demand for intermediate care services will diminish as STAIRRS enables more and more people to be cared for in the community. The progress of STAIRRS has been accelerated by this year's early release of Government funding to tackle winter pressures on health services.

STAIRRS underlines our commitment to increasing the number of people living independently at home with the support they need to manage their condition. It also demonstrates the CCG's determination to ensure that Eastern Cheshire people are supported by new, better, integrated community services. This is good news for patients – who would much rather be at home than in hospital. It is also good news for the local health economy as it will reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and readmissions.

Furthermore STAIRRS is being implemented in line with Caring Together, a major transformation programme being led by the CCG and Council to tailor health and social care services to the needs of individuals and their carers.

Finally, the CCG can offer reassurance that the potential need to maintain and develop "intermediate care" services is a key part of our strategic plans.

I hope this letter provides the information you requested. However, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague, Charles Malkin (as per the details at the top of the letter) if you feel that further clarification is required.

Yours sincerely



Neil Evans
Commissioning Director