

Charter House
Parkway
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6JL

13 June 2017

Dear parent,

I am writing to you about your child's short break services at Nascot Lawn, which is provided by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, (HCT).

The organisation I work for - East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - which buys and monitors healthcare services for local patients, has been informed that the services at Nascot Lawn will cease on 31 October 2017 and no new referrals to the unit are being accepted.

This situation has come about because Herts Valleys CCG, which provides the majority of funding for the unit, is unfortunately unable to continue this funding beyond October. Hertfordshire County Council has a duty to provide a range of Short Breaks services (including day-time and overnight care as well as education or leisure activities and services to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays). Short Breaks services are provided for eligible children across Hertfordshire. In view of this Herts Valleys CCG will be ceasing funding for Nascot Lawn from 31st October 2017.

We are looking into future arrangements for those families from the east and north Hertfordshire area who use Nascot Lawn and want to work with you and interested stakeholders, including Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to explore other options which will meet your family's needs.

The county council may or may not already be involved with your son or daughter and, if required, an assessment will be undertaken to understand if any further support is needed. As part of this, with your consent, HCT will provide health information to help inform this assessment.

If your child is in receipt of NHS Continuing Health Care, the arrangements for your overnight short breaks and support will need to be reviewed by the lead matron for Children's Continuing Health Care at East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust.

I understand that you may have concerns and questions about this and so we are arranging three 'drop in' meetings for parents and carers on the following dates and times:

- Friday 23 June at 10am – 12pm
- Monday 26 June at 6 – 7.30pm

- Tuesday 27 June at 10am – 12pm

The meetings will explain next steps and will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

We are currently confirming the venues for these meetings and will share these details with you in a follow up letter shortly. Please come along to whichever meeting date and venue is most convenient for you.

If you would like to find out details about the services offered by Hertfordshire County Council, you can contact the 0-25 Together service before the meeting. The contact details are:

- Website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/services/0-25-together-service.aspx
- Email: 0-25_central@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0300 123 4043 - for young people up to 17 years old; 0300 123 4042 - for anyone 18 or older.

I am sorry for this unfortunate news as I understand how upsetting this will be for you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kate Barker', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kate Barker Assistant Director - Maternity, Children and Young People
East and North Hertfordshire CCG