

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017, 10.00 AM**

Appendix

**A**

**NASCOT LAWN RESPITE PROVISION**

*Report of the Chief Executive Officer, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)*

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To provide the committee with information regarding the Herts Valleys CCG decision to cease funding Nascot Lawn respite provision. In this report we cover:
- The governance process undertaken in support of this decision.
  - The information used to arrive at this decision.
  - The implications for young peoples' care.
  - What engagement work has been considered?

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Nascot Lawn has been funded by the NHS in Hertfordshire for many years, the current arrangements pre-date the creation of the CCGs.
- 2.2 Herts Valleys CCG is facing unprecedented financial challenges and has been placed in formal 'financial turnaround' by our regulator, NHS England. We need to identify approximately £45m worth of savings this year and continue this into the future. As a result we have developed a financial recovery plan and one aspect of this is that we need to reserve all our funding for those services for which we have a statutory responsibility. Funding of respite care is discretionary, and was challenged by our auditors around NHS 'use of resources'.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Nascot Lawn provides respite provision for children with complex health needs and learning disability. The service has been funded by the NHS in Hertfordshire for many years: the current arrangements pre-date the creation of the CCGs. Herts Valleys CCG provides 90 per cent of the funding with East and North Hertfordshire CCG providing the remainder. The service is run by Hertfordshire Community Trust and currently supports 58 families.

**3.2 The governance process HVCCG undertook in support of this decision.**

The decision to cease funding for Nascot Lawn was made at the Herts Valleys investment committee. Please find attached the terms of reference for the investment committee which were approved by the CCG board on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and approved by the investment committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

**3.3 The information used to arrive at this decision.**

Hertfordshire County Council has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 and the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 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. Indeed the county council provides a number of short breaks services for eligible children in other facilities across Hertfordshire.

3.4 In order to meet our very considerable financial challenge – which is a statutory duty - we have examined **all** lines of expenditure. One of these concerns the discretionary payments the CCG makes and it includes the historic funding of respite care at Nascot lawn.

3.5 This goes alongside a range of other savings that we are having to identify and deliver in order to meet the requirement on us to meet financial targets in this and future years.

**3.6 The implications for young peoples' care.**

The clinical care of children and young people (CYP) will continue, with full access to clinical care in community; acute and tertiary health services. This includes the following (and is already available to other families in similar circumstances):

- Palliative care for CYP with life limiting conditions (which may include overnight respite and or symptom care within the hospice environment),
- Children's continuing care, (which may include overnight health care within the children and young person's own home)
- Children's community nursing, (which provides nursing care, advice and support for CYP within their own homes, schools or nurseries)
- Special school nursing. (nursing care and support in the school environment)

3.7 Our Equality Analysis clearly details and recognises the impact of respite provision for families. We have agreed to update this as the assessment process is completed jointly with HCC. HCC and the CCG

will continue to work in partnership around integrated services. A proposal to move from four respite units to three had already been identified by the partnership.

**3.8 What engagement work has been considered?**

The CCG took specific legal advice which was clear; as the county council has the statutory duty to provide short break services, decisions about the future delivery of respite services are a matter for the county council and not the CCG. Given this, it would not have been appropriate for the CCG to have entered into a consultation with families about the future of services at Nascot Lawn with the remit of our decision being whether we could continue, in the light of our financial position, to fund a non-health service. . We have however taken the lead in arranging the meetings underway with families – attended jointly attended by the CCG and HCC.

3.9 We have held informal and formal discussions with HCC and HCT in recent months, in line with appropriate contract processes regarding funding positions.

3.10 The decision to cease discretionary funding for Nascot Lawn took place at the Investment Committee meetings of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and 19th January 2017. The initial communication between the Chief Executives of Herts Valleys CCG and Hertfordshire County Council took place following the investment committee in early February 2017.

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

**5. Financial Implications**

The Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), Herts Valleys CCG and East and North Herts CCG currently provide funding of £660,000. Herts Valleys CCG provides £600,000. East and North Herts CCG provide £60,000. Herts Valleys CCG funding for Nascot Lawn will cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

*Background Information*

Investment committee terms of reference