

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**SPECIAL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018 AT 10.00AM**

BACKGROUND PAPER FROM HPCI – Herts Parent Carer Involvement FOR THE COMMITTEE’S SCRUTINY OF HERTS VALLEYS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP’S PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW £600,000 FUNDING FROM NASCOT LAWN NHS RESPIRE CENTRE (THE “PROPOSAL”)

Author/s: Carol Kelsey – Coordinator

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with a response to the scrutiny questions to be addressed at the Special Health Scrutiny Committee taking place 21 March 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be seeking information to address the following questions

- 2.1.1 Is the Proposal in the interests of health services in Hertfordshire?

In the considered view of HPCI the withdrawal of funding from Nascot Lawn would not be in the interests of health services in Hertfordshire. From our knowledge of how services work across health, social care and education we feel this will have a negative impact on the following four groups:

1. **Children/Young People with complex health needs who currently access Nascot.** Why?

They will not have direct nursing care at the HCC respite units and the skill level of other care staff will take time to build up but will never be as complete as a trained experienced nurse. This will result in an added health risks for those children/young people and the most likely result is more admissions to hospital as the non-nursing staff’s ability to assess and deliver an intervention will not be on par with a nurse. This will result in ambulance calls and emergency admissions to hospital increasing. There is no evidence that the other children’s health services have the ‘spare’ capacity to deliver more to the Nascot Lawn CYP indeed we already have evidence that Continuing Health Care cannot meet all it’s existing packages.

2. **The health needs of future children/young people with complex health needs** Why?

With the limited capacity at the three LA respite units and without nursing care the same issues will apply to them. The complexity of the health needs of these children is increasing over time not decreasing so that skill levels have to rise with them. Pathways will not be as clear and could lead to damaging delays for families that will have other knock on effects.

3. The parents and siblings of these children/young people.

Why?

The anxiety and stress on parents will be (and indeed currently is) affected by being unsure that the skills levels needed are in place. There will be reduced flexibility on the length of breaks and when they can be taken which will in turn impact parents mental health in delivering such complex care for longer periods. This leaves them with less time to spend with siblings and with siblings needing to help more. The effects of stress and mental health on physical health are well known. Continuity of care between specialist hospitals and children's wards with the LA respite units will be more challenging as they will not have nurse led care and even more of that responsibility will inevitably fall on parents.

4. Children/Young people without complex health needs Why?

Predicted increased levels and lengths of admission to hospital by children with complex health needs will result in other children having to wait longer for admission/procedures with the potential for conditions worsening or being sent further afield. With other children's health services having to deliver to even more children with complex health needs this will reduce capacity to deliver to those with 'lesser' needs which in some cases will lead to an increase/escalation of health needs.

2.1.2 Are there any alternative service proposals available to HVCCG and the County Council that would address the current and future needs of CYP with complex health and social care needs requiring respite care in Hertfordshire?

Work had begun on looking at alternative service proposals before the original decision to withdraw funding by the CCG was made public. This work stopped as a result and progressed no further. Any future service proposals would need to be worked on jointly by all partners including parents.

2.1.3 How will the integration and joint responsibilities between HVCCG and the County Council be arranged and managed going forward?

Steps need to be taken to repair the working relationships that have been damaged by this situation.

Be clear about what the legal frameworks and duties are on all sides and look to national guidance and successful working arrangements elsewhere in the country.

Have clear binding financial commitments

Ensure that the needs of children and young people are a higher priority across all partners than they currently are especially with the changing demographics.