

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPER FROM HEALTHWATCH HERTFORDSHIRE FOR THE  
COMMITTEE'S SCRUTINY OF HERTS VALLEYS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING  
GROUP'S PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW £600,000 FUNDING FROM NASCOT  
LAWN NHS RESPITE CENTRE (THE "PROPOSAL")**

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**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 view of Healthwatch Hertfordshire (HwH), the decision to remove the funding from Nascot Lawn was not in the interest of health services in Hertfordshire

This is our view for the following reasons:

- The service at Nascot Lawn demonstrated health and social care partners focusing on the needs of children and families. It was seen as providing very effective partnership and coordinated working.
- The decision was predominantly made in relation to *financial* pressures and the legal point that respite care is a local authority responsibility. The Finance committee of Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) was very clear that these factors determined their decision rather than whether the *service* was valuable or necessary.
- We do not believe that there was sufficient exploration of the needs of the users and how these would be met at other locations. Involvement of families has predominantly related to the removal of funding, rather than using their expertise to help respite care services to change and develop. As acknowledged the approach did lead to huge worry and stress for the families involved.

**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 children and young people with complex health and social care needs requiring respite care in Hertfordshire?**

At this stage our knowledge of potential proposals is limited but we understand that there is a very welcome approach between the council and both the clinical commissioning groups (CCG's) to work together to develop a model of respite care with funding from all three organisations to make this happen.

HwH's view is that the model must address opportunities for learning from good practice at Nascot Lawn and other respite facilities and look to build on these through

- Developing opportunities for child centred collaborative working
- Understanding the challenges of location and premises for families
- Involvement of families using all respite services and being clear about impacts of service changes across all locations and for all families receiving a service
- Transparency about funding and provision, especially if the total amount of funding for respite care is reduced.

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

We look forward to answers from the council and the CCGs on this key matter.