

Motion to Council

Pressures on the Provision of Acute and Sub-acute Beds in North Staffordshire

This council notes:

That North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NSCCG) took the decision in October 2016 to remove the funding of community step-down and rehabilitation beds, resulting in the closure of 64 community beds at Bradwell Hospital.

That in October and November 2016 Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council resolved to 'refer-back', under the Health & Social Care Act (2012), the decision to close these community beds to the Secretary of State for Health for consideration.

That a motion passed at the 23rd November 2016 meeting of council resolved to support the 'refer-back' of the decision to close the community beds at Bradwell hospital, and that until a decision had been made, the beds should remain open.

That since November 2016 a further 84 Community beds have been closed in Cheadle and Leek Moorlands hospital. Whilst the UHNM trust is working to increase the number of beds at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, against significant funding pressures, investing £2 million to open an additional 45 acute care beds.

That during a recent debate on healthcare in North Staffordshire in the House of Commons, the Health Minister confirmed that the 'refer-back' has been passed onto the independent referral panel for investigation.

That the UHNM trust has made a formal request to the NSCCG to re-open community beds in the build up to, and over the winter period, in anticipation of increased pressures on the provision of acute beds.

That the NSCCG has administered circa. £10 million pounds in fines to the UHNM trust for failure to meet specified unrealistic targets, and that the NSCCG retains the ability to forgive these fines given the financial pressures the UHNM trust faces.

This council believes:

That community hospitals provide an essential health care provision to ensure that residents can recuperate outside of an acute setting in a location close to their home and families.

That Bradwell Hospital wards should be re-opened permanently, funded by NSCCG.

That provision of sub-acute beds, where patients who are medically fit for discharge from an acute setting, but not yet medically fit to return to their own homes, is essential to a sustainable patient discharge system.

That the NSCCG has failed to demonstrate appropriate, transparent, and accountable leadership regarding the consultation process over the closure of community beds at Bradwell hospital and across the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent authorities.

That the NSCCG has failed to appropriately respond to the request by the UHNM trust to reopen community beds, on the basis of increased pressures, and in doing so put the safety of residents at risk.

This council resolves:

That the Leader of the Council write to the Borough's four Members of Parliament and ask that they use their platform within the House of Commons to apply pressure on the Secretary of State for Health to intervene over the closure of community beds whilst under a Health & Social Care Act (2012) 'refer-back' mechanism and ensure the long-term opening of Bradwell Hospital wards.

That the Leader of the Council write to the Director of NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health, raising this councils concerns regarding the leadership of the NSCCG.

That the Leader of the Council write to the Chief Accountability officer of the NSCCG, the Chief Executive of the UHNM trust, and the Director of NHS England, raising this councils belief that the circa. £10 million in fines levied against the trust should be forgiven.

Proposed: Councillor Allison Gardner

Seconded: Councillor Dave Jones