

News from the Inspire Patient Group

The Ashgate Hospice Funding Situation



There won't be many of us in the local community that haven't had friends or family that have received the care and support of our local hospice at Ashgate.

It therefore goes without saying that news of redundancies and reduction in beds at the hospice recently has been a highly emotive subject. The Inspire Patient Group (IPG) recently attending a wider meeting with other patient groups representing patients from GP surgeries across Chesterfield and Dronfield. The funding crisis at the hospice was very much at the forefront of discussions, with a general feeling of wanting to do something to help using the voice of the patients.

There are statements in the local and national media from both Ashgate Hospice and also from the Chief Executive of the NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) who part fund the hospice. We are also very aware of lots of comments and rumours circulating on social media clouding the situation and making it very hard to know what the true position is and therefore how best to provide support.

As a patient group, we felt that one way we could be useful would be to make contact with both parties on behalf of our patients to try to get to the bottom of some of the conflicting information and just present the facts. For example, there have been concerns that the north of the county is being seen as the poor relation and not receiving the equivalent amount of funding for hospice care when compared to the south. However, the ICB have made it clear that the two parts of the county cannot be compared like for like for various reasons.

There are also contrasting views on increased costs at the hospice and whether these are proportionate. Whilst some issues can be looked at from different viewpoints, the fear is also that there is a lot of misinformation out there.



As a patient group, we are committed to supporting Ashgate Hospice and highly value all the work they have done and continue to do. The last thing we want to see is a reducing level of hospice care. We are therefore trying to get as much information together as we can for our patients so that we can put forward any genuine concerns regarding gaps in funding. We are asking any local residents who have any questions that they would like the answers to, to please contact us and we will do our best to put these questions forward to both Ashgate Hospice and the ICB.

If there is any information you would like us to get clarification on, please e-mail the IPG at ppgroup.ih@gmail.com. We will collate all the questions and then email any answers we receive to all of our IPG members and anyone else who has got in contact with us in relation to the hospice situation.

If you contact us and are a patient of Inspire Health, please also let us know if you would like to be added to our patient group so that you can be kept up to date with this and other issues affecting our surgeries.