

Representation to the ICB from the chairs of the PPG's of North Derbyshire.

The chairs of the Derbyshire PPG's discussed the difficulties facing the Ashgate Hospice on 8/12/05.

They were concerned about the proposed reduction in services and were helped by a discussion with Sean Thornton which helped to balance some of the news and social media output that has been so prominently circulating and causing considerable anxiety for patients.

They appreciated the difficult situation faced by the ICB with demand for services outstripping resources with challenging financial decisions having to be made.

They feel they are aware of the different points being made by Ashgate and the ICB and that finding resolution is difficult.

They welcome the financial review being conducted at the Hospice and would ask that this be completed as soon as possible.

They would like the ICB to consider these points that arise from their discussions with patients.

1 Ashgate Hospice is much loved and respected by patients and any threat to its services causes considerable anxiety. 'End of life' is a daunting prospect for everyone and the Hospice has come to be a very reassuring presence in North Derbyshire.

2. Patients feel that it offers a special care matched to patient preferences that is difficult to provide through other services and this thought provides considerable comfort and reassurance. This important psychological effect within the populace should carry weight in your considerations.

3. There may well be financial benefits to the health care system that are not easy to quantify. There will be situations where a family knowing that the Hospice is available as an acceptable option when things are proving difficult could prevent a crisis moment which results in an undesired hospital admission.

In summary ;

The PPG's feel that the current situation is very concerning for patients who would like resolution and a formula that guarantees the continuing viability of Ashgate Hospice within an 'end of life' strategy.

Ian Anderson [chair of Inspire PPG, Chesterfield] on behalf of the North Derbyshire PPG's.