

HDC Liberal Democrat Group

Huntingdonshire District, Cambridgeshire

Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

(wes.streeting.mp@parliament.uk and dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk)

Roland Sinker, Chief Executive of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

(roland.sinker@nhs.net)

14th December 2025, via email

Cuts to funding and beds at Arthur Rank Hospice, Cambridgeshire

Dear Wes and Roland,

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Liberal Democrat group of District Councillors in Huntingdonshire.

We are exceptionally concerned about the decision which has been made by Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) to cut their funding for nine of the beds at Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridgeshire.

Arthur Rank Hospice is a facility which provides best-in-class end of life care to hundreds of patients and their families every year - something which they have done for decades.

However, these cuts mean that fewer vulnerable people at the end of their life will be able to access these services. Arthur Rank Hospice claims that the funding cut will lead to over 200 people not having the option of being cared for in the world-class hospice.

This is a decision which has caused us and many residents which we represent across our district a great deal of concern. It will have an impact on the quality of care for vulnerable patients, and it will make capacity issues worse at hospitals in our region.

As you have likely seen, the petition being led by three of Cambridgeshire's MPs - Ian Sollom, Pippa Heylings, and Charlotte Cane - now has over 16,000 signatures from members of the public who are deeply concerned by the proposed cuts to bed numbers.

We support ambitions to move towards stronger community and preventative healthcare, as outlined in the NHS's 10 Year Health Plan, and this is something which we have championed as part of the administration at Huntingdonshire District Council. However, it is difficult to see how this decision around the funding of Arthur Rank Hospice aligns with these government ambitions.

(Please reply to sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk and nathan.hunt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



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We appreciate the financial situation that CUH is in. After years of Conservative government cuts to hospices and a regional funding formula which doesn't reflect the exceptional growth or hidden deprivation in our county, NHS bodies in Cambridgeshire are having to make very difficult choices. However, this decision will have an indescribable impact on vulnerable patients and their families at one of the most difficult points in their lives.

As such, and in response to the significant public concern which has been raised, please can you confirm the following:

Secretary of State:

- In light of the challenges in Cambridgeshire and across the country, will the government review the funding model for hospices, as well as wider NHS services, to ensure fair funding for areas including Cambridgeshire?

Chief Executive:

- What action is being taken to review the decision to stop funding these nine beds in light of the significant public concern which has been seen?
- Can you provide assurance that going forward, patients receiving end of life care in our county will receive the best care possible, in supportive settings which enable family and friends to spend precious time together in a high-quality environment?

Kind regards,

Cllr Sarah Conboy - Leader of the Huntingdonshire District Council Liberal Democrat Group (Godmanchester and Hemingford Abbots)

Cllr James Catmur (Great Paxton)

Cllr Doug Dew (Hemingford Grey and Houghton)

Cllr Jo Harvey (Huntingdon East)

Cllr Nathan Hunt (Huntingdon East)

Cllr Patricia Jordan (Brampton)

Cllr Brett Mickelburgh (Godmanchester and Hemingford Abbots)

Cllr Debbie Mickelburgh (Godmanchester and Hemingford Abbots)

Cllr Dave Shaw (Brampton)

Cllr Clare Tevlin (Fenstanton)

Cllr Nic Wells (St Ives South)

