

RESPIRE OPPORTUNITIES AND SHORT BREAKS PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The above consultation is taking place at the moment, despite some of the Carer's not receiving notification of the meetings. I look after my 54 year old brother who has learning difficulties, autism, blind, has health issues and mobility problems. He accesses Aysgarth for respite care, to give me a well deserved break, as I look after on my own. This respite is vital for my health and mental well being, as well as a safe and happy environment for my brother. So the final decision will have devastating results for us, if Aysgarth was to close. As it takes a long time for staff to form relationships, because of behavioural problems, health problems and mobility issues. Which causes me concern when there is talk of buying respite beds/nights ??where are the beds!!! Aysgarth cannot fulfil the nights required by care plan now, as there are not enough beds available!! I have so many concerns about this consultation and decision I will try and put them in bullet points below to give you an outline of this very serious problem.

The consultation appears to be targeting vulnerable people who haven't got the ability to make themselves heard and fight for justice and the care they require.

We feel that decisions have already been made, and suggested alternatives have not been given enough thought or expertise, to meet the complex needs of individuals. Without the individual assessments even being carried out!!

How long is it going to take to carry out the individual assessments, then put a plan in place. Will we get respite while this is carried out?

Not enough information has been given to Carer's and families about the options and the importance to fulfil all the complex needs of individuals.

Alternative options cannot be looked at as a 'blanket' solution to the problem, as changes to routine, environment and staff, can cause major problems to our loved ones. Including extreme changes in personality, behaviour, temperament and sleep patterns!!

Lots of figures have been talked about, but at the end of the day care always comes at a cost. We as Carer's are paid a paltry sum to be on call 24/7, if our loved ones were put in full time care the cost would be astronomical!!

Buying Respite nights must also provide medical cover, and not be based in elderly care homes which are larger and don't have the staff for the individual and intensive care needed, especially at night. Where are these beds?, the shortage of respite beds has been a serious problem for years, and is getting worse with increasing numbers.

The Carer's and families have no peace of mind leaving their loved ones in inexperienced hands, and no forward planning for holidays or special occasions.

There are not enough respite facilities locally now, and there is no provision in any budget for future builds. This has been a serious problem for years, I know as I have travelled out of the area for years, using private facilities and have still had safeguarding issues.

The people on the committee who are making these decisions have no idea what is involved in the care of someone with complex needs, behavioural, and mobility problems and how this impacts on everyday living. At the end of the day they can all go home and live their lives, while we will have to deal with the fallout of their decision!!! We as family and Carer's to our loved ones endure such a lot of hardships every day and especially at night, we are not getting any younger and often have health issues of our own, struggling on to give them a small amount of pleasure in their lives. It is hard very tiring and extremely stressful, and having a small amount of respite is what keeps us sane and gives us a chance to relax a little and recharge our batteries. To take this safe environment away is just devastating, after spending so much time finding the right environment and expertise for our loved ones to feel safe, happy and have some enjoyment in their lives, is just heartbreaking.

I only ask that our concerns are listened to and considered before a decision is made that will cause such stress and headache to so many already very vulnerable people, and their families. We need this respite, it affects so many and the numbers are increasing not decreasing. So the respite care needs to increase too.

My contact details

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