

Our Ref: AS/RB/May

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Councillor Girling
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Councillor Muriel Weisz
Gedling Borough Council
Civic Centre
Arnot Hill Park
Arnold
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NG5 8LU

Dear Councillor Girling and Councillor Weisz

I am writing, as requested, in relation to decommissioning of Homestart services in Ashfield.

As you may be aware over the past couple of years we have been reviewing all services in line with commissioning best practice guidelines. We have unfortunately had to make some very difficult decisions in terms of prioritising resources in the areas most likely to have a direct health impact on the population. That said, we are fully committed to continuing to work with you and your officers as further difficult decisions are made in the Council and NHS.

The CCG reviewed Homestart last year, following our service benefit review policy, and made the difficult decision to decommission the service in August 2017 as similar statutory services are available. The service was reviewed by various committees in the CCG including Clinical Executive, Quality and Risk Committee and the Governing Body (which has social care representation). We work with Council colleagues when undertaking this process, so that comments can be taken into account.

The rationale for this decision is set out below:-

- There were concerns whether social sign-posting and services provided were core NHS business, given the extreme pressure on budgets
- Consideration was given to the alternative provision of similar statutory services
- The effectiveness and outcomes from services were not clear
- This was a national organisation with ability to fund raise more widely

Parents with children under 5, who require family support, continue to be able to access services such as Health Visiting Services (part of the Healthy Family Teams) and at SureStart Children's Centres. Existing Homestart users have been supported to transition to alternative services to avoid any adverse effects. We have not received any complaints from families since making this change.

The CCG is committed to providing the best and most appropriate care to local residents within the budgets provided to us for our population and continues to monitor local services to ensure that we provide the best care possible within our financial means. We recognise that areas such as this do have considerable overlap across health and social care. We remain very willing to work in a more integrated way with the Council as commissioning decisions are made, recognising the considerable financial constraints for both parties.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A. Sullivan

Dr Amanda Sullivan
Chief Officer