

**Cabinet – 9 February 2018****Item 7 - Reconfiguration of In - House Learning Disability Residential  
Accommodation**

Dear Members of the Cabinet

I am writing to express concern at the proposals to close The Trees to the existing residents and to express the hope that you will not accept the recommendation . I represented the area when the project was constructed back in 1987 and can report that it has long been an integral part of the local scene. It has worked well.

The families were invited on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan to a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan without being given any indication of what the meeting was about. I did not receive any notification until being contacted by the media a fortnight later. Needless to say everyone involved is shocked at this proposition as this has been home to the 7 residents ,for many years in some cases.

I understand that there is a need for more respite care but according to the CQC reports there are unoccupied beds throughout the year in other parts of the county and the surplus exceeds the 7 places supposedly needed at The Trees. The buildings were purpose built and are adapted for wheelchair users, for example. It is difficult to reconcile the special needs of the present residents with those requiring respite care without major changes being taken.

The most disturbing aspect of this proposal is the fact that no indication has been given as to where the residents might be relocated. There is a strong bond between the staff and the residents who know and understand their individual needs. They are part of a family and all want to stay together. The residents would be devastated to be parted from their friends . I hope that you will reject this proposition.

Yours sincerely,

David Bill  
County Councillor  
Hollycroft

This page is intentionally left blank