



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Caroline Dinénage MP
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

PO-1172718

020 7210 4850

Councillor Bryan Turner
Chairman
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
West Sussex County Council
By email to: bryan.turner@westsussex.gov.uk

15 MAY 2019

Dear Cllr Turner,

Thank you for your further correspondence of 27 March to Matt Hancock about community hospitals. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I am afraid that we have no record of your original letter of 25 January. Please accept my apologies if that is due to a fault on the part of the Department.

The Secretary of State and I have made clear the importance of community hospitals. This includes cottage hospitals. A patient should be supported to recover in the most appropriate setting, including a cottage hospital. Important planning decisions about all community hospitals should be taken with detailed consideration of local needs.

The *NHS Long Term Plan*, which sets out a vision for fully integrated community-based healthcare, includes a commitment that community hospital hubs will play a part in many integrated multidisciplinary teams.

On the matter of future provision of community hospitals in West Sussex, these decisions should be made locally. It is right that these types of matters are addressed at a local level, where local healthcare needs are best understood.

It is vital that people can shape the future of their local services. For any significant system reconfiguration, we therefore expect all local parts of the system to talk to the public and stakeholders regularly. I was pleased to read that Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust is working with the local area, including patient groups, in reviewing how it can best support communities in West Sussex.

I hope this reply is helpful.


CAROLINE DINENAGE