

**Statement by Cabinet Member – young people and children’s wellbeing – Council
17 July 2015
Wye Valley NHS Trust Facility – No 1 Ledbury Road, Hereford**

Firstly, with regard to the issue of the future of no 1 Ledbury Road I appreciate that members of the public, and in particular concerned families are here to show their support. I thank them for their attendance. I would also like to thank councillors for raising questions around provision for children with very complex needs. I wish to take this opportunity to assure everyone that the council is committed to providing excellent services for children with disabilities and we have been working for some time to develop a new range of services to meet individual needs. The desire to have a better range of services for short breaks and respite care has come from the request of families. To that end the Council has been planning since 2013 to achieve a whole range of services in the future.

The decision of the CCG to withdraw funding for the facility at the end of March 2016 has come as a shock to parents. I appreciate that, while some alternative services are available now, others are still in development so the families do not yet have the comfort of knowing how these services will provide for them.

I am concerned that a very definite date for closure has been announced, however, I will be meeting with the CCG and Wye Valley Trust to review the arrangements and at the same time ensure that the whole range of services that are yet to be put in place are established to ensure that we meet our statutory responsibilities.

It goes without saying that I am very concerned about the fact that some parents have said they were unaware of the proposed changes and I will be looking into this matter. Furthermore, I will be ensuring that in future parents are kept up to date by all of the organizations involved. The involvement of families in the development of alternative services is essential and we will continue to work with them and other stakeholders to shape those services.

Lastly, I welcome the input of all our members, be it through the scrutiny committee process or by other participation to ensure that the council and our partners achieve our objectives for our children.

Thank you Chairman.