

06 October 2020

Mr P Warren-Gray
Valley Nursing Home (MPS) Limited
No. 6 & 7 Key Point Office Village
Nix's Hill
Alfreton
Derbyshire
United Kingdom
DE55 7FQ

Dear Mr Warren-Gray

Update on SHSCT Position Re: Sanction on New Admissions

I have met with a group of Senior Managers from the SHSCT to review the Trust's position regarding our suspension of Valley Nursing Home from being included on the SHSCT's list of available residential care accommodation. As part of that discussion we reviewed evidence provided by the Adult Safeguarding Team following their last re-validation audit of 03 September 2020, an update provided by RQIA on progress against the QIP from their unannounced inspection of 09 June 2020, subsequent Whistle-blowing incident and progress on compliance with other issues raised in PN2 and PN3.

The latest revalidation inspection by the Adult Safeguarding Team demonstrates considerable improvements made within the home; we have also been assured by RQIA that currently they have no concerns pending and are content with the progress you have made to rectify the issues, which lead to enforcement action in July 2019. They have noted there are some environmental changes still expected, which you are unable to progress at this time due to the desire to reduce footfall on the premises as a result of the current pandemic. They have also informed us that they have reviewed the allegations raised by a Whistle-blower on 16 September 2020 and are satisfied that the matter was as a result of a disgruntled past employee. The Trust also took the opportunity to discuss the allegations directly with Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Cozma on 17 September 2020 and are satisfied with the explanations and evidence provided.

In relation to Performance Notice 2, on the basis that the Trust suspended admissions to the Valley (11 July 2019) on matters referred to us by RQIA and subsequent evidence from our own monitoring visit, we have agreed that PN2 will sit outside any agreement on our position regarding the current Trust sanction. Issues regarding PN2 will therefore be dealt with through an ongoing Performance Management process and any outstanding issues will be highlighted to you via separate correspondence.

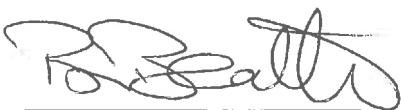
As I am sure you will appreciate any decision to lift the current sanction is balanced with the impact such a sanction has on stability of the home as well as our duty of care to the residents both current and impending. From our last meeting and subsequent correspondence, you know that the Trust has had concerns about the long term sustainability of agreed actions. This has been evidenced by the fact that similar themes have recurrently been highlighted and assurances provided over a number of years and more recently in consideration of the amount of support in terms of staff time and training the Trust has committed to support the Home on the basis of findings of the Adult Safeguarding Investigation and RQIA enforcement action. Going forward it is therefore paramount that the commitment and tangible improvements evidenced by the Trust and RQIA will be sustained into the future.

In principle therefore, I am notifying you that the Trust will consider lifting the current sanction predicated on the following:

- Update on the current or proposed future ownership of Valley Nursing Home. In acknowledgement of your recent update to the Trust we require you to formally advise us in writing of any proposed changes which will impact on the legal entity of this home. In agreement to any change in legal entity and reassignment of the current contract all parties, both MPS and the incoming Provider, will be required to sign a Novation Agreement. It is fundamental that our current contract, which provides a governance framework to safeguard all residents placed by the SHSCT, is in place with the actual company accountable for the provision of care within Valley Nursing Home.
- Agreement to a phased admission policy to ensure that the care Provider has successfully been able to recruit and retain the requisite staffing levels relative to the number of residents placed and in line with their assessed needs.

I would therefore respectfully request a formal response to bullet points 1 and 2 by Monday 12 October 2020, in order to progress and confirm our position in relation to the Trust's sanction on admissions.

Yours sincerely



Brian Beattie
Interim Director of Older Peoples Services

Cc Mr B McNeany, Director of Mental Health and Disability Services
Mrs B Byrne, Interim Assistant Director of Older Peoples Services
Mrs A Mulligan, Head of Care Home Support Team
Mrs D Hanlon, Head of Adult Safeguarding
Mrs L Leeman, Assistant Director of Performance Improvement
Mrs D Livingstone, Head of Contracts