



Friday 3 October 2025

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter sharing the views of the Swan Medical Group Patient Participation Group about the proposals to increase home-based rehabilitation. Your concerns are completely understandable and there is definitely a need to ensure these proposals are clearly communicated.

I wholeheartedly agree that Petersfield Hospital is a key element in providing care to the local community. Under these proposals, inpatient care will remain at the hospital for people who need that type of support (including step-up care) with the right amount to meet demand. The core challenge we are seeking to address through this proposal is the growing difficulty in meeting the demand for timely care at home. This delay often results in individuals remaining in acute hospital beds longer than necessary, which in turn limits access for those who genuinely need acute care.

Additionally, we are seeing too many people being placed in community hospital beds when, with the right support available, they could return directly home. This not only leads to poorer outcomes and slower recovery for those individuals, but also represents an inefficient use of public resources, providing a type of care that is not best suited to their needs.

This pattern creates a misleading impression of the level of demand for inpatient rehabilitation beds, suggesting a need for more beds than is truly required. Our proposals aim to rebalance our capacity to better reflect actual demand, ensuring we have the right mix of bed-based and home-based care to support people in the most appropriate and effective way.

By getting the right number of beds, savings will be released because costs of running 24-hr bed-based care would be reduced. Staff would be redeployed to bolster our 'hospital at home' service – boosting the number of care-at-home places from 155 to 195. There is very strong evidence that providing more care at home is both better for people's recovery and independence, and better use of the public purse.

Looking back over the last year, only about 14% (about one-in-seven) of the beds at Petersfield are used by local residents (patients with Petersfield postcodes). Most of the beds are used by people from other places, as far afield as Gosport, Havant, and even the New Forest. By supporting more people at home, where this is appropriate, we will reduce the need for people to travel far from home to visit loved ones, which is really important.

If the proposals were to go ahead, we would then look to make the best possible use of the space at Rowan Ward to benefit the local population, and we would welcome the opportunity to work alongside your PPG, primary care, and other local groups to determine what that

might look like. In doing so, we would make Petersfield Hospital even more of an asset to the local community than it already is.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these proposals in more detail, and there are two upcoming events which I hope you and your fellow PPG members will be able to attend. Otherwise, please get in touch if you would like to arrange a separate conversation.

8 October 2025 6-7pm virtual session: [Join the meeting now](#)

9 October 2025 2-6pm St Peters Church Hall (St Peter's Road, Petersfield GU32 3HX)

Thanks again to you and the PPG for taking the time to consider this proposal and share your views.

Simon Nightingale,
Assistant Director, Health and Care Services