

Swan Surgery Patient Participation Group  
Petersfield  
Hants

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I am writing as Chair of the Swan Medical Group (SMG) Patient Participation Group (PPG) to express our concern about the proposals to reduce the number of beds in Petersfield Community Hospital.

The hospital is a key element in providing care to some of the elderly and frail people among the 37,00 patients of the Swan Medical Group in the Petersfield, Liss and Liphook areas. The beds are an important part of rehabilitation or step up care for patients of Swan practices. The proposals seem in direct contradiction to the recently published NHS 10-year plan. To quote from Chapter 2 of that plan: '*We will bring the NHS closer to Patients.*'

While the move to more care at home is to be welcomed in some circumstances, the view of the PPG from its collective experience as patients - some of whom have benefitted from step up care in Petersfield Hospital - that local hospital care is a necessary and important part of the service needed to support primary care patients. Placing a patient in Petersfield Hospital frees up beds in the main Portsmouth Hospitals, enables services such as physiotherapy and blood tests to be done efficiently and provides efficient access to Swan GPs to visit their patients who are about to be discharged to their care.

It seems to us that paying for, say, a physiotherapist to travel around the local district delivering rehabilitation is much less efficient than delivering to patients in in one location. The NHS plan states that for every £100 spent in care at home, £130 can be saved in a hospital. We suspect that the costs of a bed in Petersfield Community Hospital are not as great as that quoted for main hospitals in the 10-year plan and therefore doubt that savings will be realised by closing the beds.

We would be grateful if the views of the Swan PPG can be considered before final decisions are taken.

I am copying this letter to the SMG Partners and to the local MP Mr Damian Hinds.



David Snelson  
Chair, Swan Medical Patient Participation Group