

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

Bridge House
The Point
Lions Way
Sleaford
NG34 8GG

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Victoria Atkins, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sent by email

Tel: 01522 573939
Email: john.turner19@nhs.net

Dear Victoria

Case Ref VA34202 - Marie Curie

Thank you for your email dated 4th April regarding the decision that the ICB has made to not renew the Marie Curie overnight service contract.

By way of background information, there are at any one time a small number of palliative care patients in Lincolnshire (approximately 20-30) who require an overnight sitting service, which is provided by Health Care Support level workers. This service primarily entails the worker sitting with the patient and providing care if they become unsettled. This care not only supports the patient but provides reassurance to the family so that they are able to get a good night's sleep. This overnight sitting service has until recently been provided by a range of providers, with the Marie Curie element being a small proportion of this, of no more than 20% of the total.

Unfortunately, and despite extensive efforts by the ICB team, in our commercial discussions with Marie Curie the considerable increase in the financial value that they were seeking, alongside their own internal strict criteria for how they deployed their staff, meant that the ICB was unable to renew the contract for this overnight sitting service with them. We have therefore been working through smooth contract exit arrangements with them.

The modest gap in service provision that this created is being met by the other providers of the overnight sitting service who already covered approximately 80% of the patient need in Lincolnshire. This arrangement is working perfectly well for patients and their families, and there has been no disruption in support to them.

In terms of overall care arrangements, the overnight sitting service is just one part of the entire 24-hour palliative and end of life care service available to patients and their families in Lincolnshire. That entire service is delivered by a range of providers including St Barnabas Hospice, Macmillan, Marie Curie, community nursing teams and domiciliary care teams. As part of this, overnight specialist clinical interventions are available to support health care workers in patients' homes via the Marie Curie Rapid Response team. This Marie Curie Rapid Response service is unaffected by the recent changes in the overnight sitting service.

I do hope that this reply answers the concerns raised, but if you require any further information please do not hesitate to get back to me.

Yours sincerely



John Turner
Chief Executive