

Dear Chair,

Before Christmas we had the terrible news that the Sussex Beacon HIV inpatient unit was losing funding from East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups, thereby imminently threatening the whole charity's survival.

You will be aware that this popular and groundbreaking organisation relieves the NHS and adult social care through its wide range of services to a disadvantaged group in our city, which has the highest prevalence of HIV outside London. The unit was rated outstanding by the Care Quality Commission only last September, and our three MPs (one Labour, one Conservative and one Green) have recently written a joint letter to the Department of Health in support of its work.

In addition you moved a motion to Full Council in October proposing that Brighton & Hove became the first Fast Track City in the UK, to lead the way in HIV treatment and diagnosis. This was passed unanimously, by all 51 Councillors from across the political spectrum.

I hope you will agree that it is intolerable to stand by and allow this "jewel in the crown" of local HIV services to close. Please use your good offices and established links with our NHS colleagues in Sussex to find a way forward.

Thank you in anticipation of your early reply, outlining what actions you will take. After that I sincerely hope we will see results in the form of an announcement.

Yours Sincerely,

Dick (Page),

Councillor, Green Member of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

