

**4 December 2025**

**Response to the Petition: Save our Service (Preserve stroke bed rehabilitation services for Walsall residents)**

**Ward(s):** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr Gary Flint                      Culture, Health and Wellbeing

**1. Aim**

- 1.1. A petition has been submitted calling for the proposals to relocate stroke rehabilitation services, current based at Hollybank House, Willenhall, to West Park Hospital in Wolverhampton to not go ahead.
- 1.2. The Council's petitions scheme states that "if a petition contains at least 500 signatories the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The authority has determined that the response to such petitions must be given by either the chief executive, executive directors, directors or heads of service. The committee may also decide to call the relevant portfolio holder to attend the meeting."
- 1.3. The Committee will consider the response to the Petition as part of the 7a Consultation feedback report from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and follow an order of procedure as out by the Chair of the Committee.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. That, the Committee review the Petition: Save our Service (Preserve Stoke Bed Rehabilitation Services for Walsall Residents in connection with the response provided by Walsall Healthcare Trust and provide any comments or recommendations as necessary.

**3. Report detail – know**

At its meeting on the 25 September 2025 the Committee received a report from the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust on its proposal to reconfigure stroke rehabilitation services titled: 'Transformation of Stroke Rehabilitation Services in Walsall'.

- 3.1. The report outlined the proposed changes:
  - 3.1.1. "Evidence base demonstrates the outcome from delivering 7-day stroke rehabilitation in patient's homes in the community, which will provide a more enhances service for the Walsall population and concerns about the sustainability of the current service at Holly Bank House due to the building not being fit for purpose, and the significant costs associated with

making the building healthcare compliance and extensive maintenance costs given the age of the building”.

- 3.1.2. Additionally, the current service, whilst meeting key performance indicators, are not able to “deliver the frequency and intensity of therapy sessions needed”. The proposed changes which would involve setting up the Integrated Community Stroke Service (ICCS) model is part of the recommended National Stroke Service Model. Additionally, proposals would see the bed-based rehabilitation for patients moved to West Park Hospital in Wolverhampton as a combined model for Walsall and Wolverhampton patients.
- 3.3 Following feedback from a resident and staff member of the Stroke Service based in Holly Bank House and resolved: *‘That the Committee receive a report containing the feedback from the consultation on the proposed changes to stroke rehabilitation before they are approved including the feedback of staff’.*
- 3.4 A petition which was submitted by Mrs Dianne Bettridge on the 27 November 2025 and the petition wording is as follows:

*“Having seen firsthand the profound impact that local stroke rehabilitation services have had on my family and friends, I am compelled to advocate for their preservation within the Walsall borough of beds to stay in the borough of walsall and not be relocated to west park in Wolverhampton.*

*Following meetings in 2018 with the Senate, the scrutiny Council at walsall and a public consultation. The following actions were taken Acute stroke was moved to New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.*

*Stroke rehabilitation including beds would be kept in walsall as walsall residents wanted to be closer to home while thy recover. This service is now under threat of being taken from walsall residents with stroke rehabilitation beds being moved to West Park Wolverhampton.*

*This means no beds will be available close to home for walsall residents. As someone who works within this dedicated team, I can attest to the excellent service we provide to Walsall residents. Our efforts contribute significantly to the recovery and improvement of stroke survivors, allowing them to achieve better health outcomes and quality of life. Stroke rehabilitation not only aids individuals in regaining their independence, but it also offers emotional and psychological support vital for the recovery process. The service provides personalized care plans, physical therapy sessions, and other critical interventions tailored to each patient’s needs. By keeping our local services, we ensure that residents have timely access to these life-saving and life-enhancing resources without the needless stress of traveling far distances for treatment.*

*Continuing to support these services within our community ensures that Walsall remains a place that prioritizes the health and well-being of its citizens. National statistics reveal that over 100,000 people experience strokes each year in the UK, with rehabilitation being a cornerstone for decreasing the long-term impact on patients and the healthcare system at large.*

*Our unique insight into the needs of stroke patients within Walsall enables us to*

*provide compassionate and care.*

*We urge the local government and health authorities in Walsall to commit to maintaining the stroke rehabilitation beds within the borough of walsall .By doing so, we can preserve and uplift the lives of countless residents who rely on our critical service.*

*Please join me in safeguarding the future of stroke rehabilitation services in Walsall by signing this petition. Your support is invaluable in ensuring that we continue to provide exceptional care to those in need, right here in our community with beds in the walsall borough. Together, let's act now to ensure these vital services remain available for future generations.*

*Here at walsall we are asking to preserve our community stroke rehabilitation beds within the borough of walsall, so patients will not be reliant on hospital based beds. As quoted in the 10 year NHS plan to transform stroke rehabilitation to make it more proactive, with more community based care to reduce the reliance on hospital based services.”*

## **Background papers**

Transformation of Stroke Rehabilitation Services in Walsall  
Minutes of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 25 September 2025

## **Author**

Jack Thompson  
Democratic Services Officer  
☎ 01922 654196  
✉ jack.thompson@walsall.gov.uk